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Health Services Panel Meeting on the Legislative proposals to enhance the regulation of pharmaceutical products

The Health Services Panel of the Legislative Council held a special meeting on 10th December to further discuss the various legislative proposals which aim to enhance the regulation of pharmaceutical products in Hong Kong. The HKAPI was invited to submit our comments and Ms. Sabrina Chan, Executive Director presented [our views](#) on behalf of the Association.

The Association in principle supports the legislative amendments put forward by the Food and Health Bureau in response to the 75 recommendations proposed by the Review Committee on the Regulation of Pharmaceutical Products in Hong Kong. Specifically, we have some comments on the requirement of written orders of drugs and the presence of registered pharmacist whenever an Authorized Sellers of Poisons (ASP) is opened for business.

Written order is an important and integral part of the supply chain management of pharmaceutical products and there are stringent requirements on the storage of pharmaceutical products, including the control on temperature and humidity and the first in first out procedure have to be followed. Written order can certainly reduce the miscommunication and errors in drug ordering, this requirement may increase the administrative costs for the industry, however, this is worth implementing in view of its enhancement to patient safety and reduction of wastage caused by wrong orders.

The requirement of having pharmacist on duty during business hours of an ASP is adopted in many countries including the U.S, Europe, Australia and Singapore. The Association supports the proposed requirement, but we also understand the current supply of pharmacists is not sufficient. It is hoped that the Government will formulate with the industry a comprehensive plan on achieving the required manpower before implementing the proposed requirement.

- Seminar on Patent for the Pharmaceutical Industry
- HKAPI Bowling Cup 2013
- New HKAPI members
- Upcoming Event

HKAPI Training Course Graduation Ceremony 2013 (Click [here](#) for more photos)

The HKAPI provides certificate training course to medical representatives of its member companies every year. This year, 84 students have successfully completed the course and passed the examination with one-third of them obtaining credits, which represents a passing rate of 96 per cent. A graduation ceremony was held on 20th December to honour their hard work and good results. We are very delighted to have Ms. Linda Woo, Assistant Director (Drug), Department of Health as our honorary guest to congratulate and present the certificates to the graduates together with Dr. Sian Ng, and Ms. Kelly Lam, President and Vice President of the Association.



Dr. Sian Ng, President of the HKAPI, congratulating the graduates on their achievement.



Ms. Linda Woo, Assistant Director (Drug), Department of Health gave our graduates some words of encouragement.



84 medical representatives graduated from this year's Certificate of Medical Representative course.



9 graduates made full attendance of 22 lectures for the course.

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PhRMA Asia Pacific Health Technology Assessment Workshop

In November, a number of meetings on the topic of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) were organized. On 14th and 15th November, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) hosted its 2013 Asia Pacific Health Technology Assessment Workshop in Hong Kong. A wide range of topics were discussed, including the global trends and best practices in the use of HTA, the development of HTA in Europe, Australia and Asia, stakeholder engagement and the impact of HTA on pricing and reimbursement decision. HKAPI members were invited to attend the Workshop which has enhanced our understanding on the latest development of HTA systems globally.

Members' Briefing on Health Technology Assessment

Following the PhRMA HTA Workshop, HKAPI also took the opportunity to organize a briefing for member companies to update them about the progress of the work currently undertaken by the Health Technology Assessment and Enlistment Taskforce. We have also invited an external expert, Dr. Karen Facey, Honorary Senior Research Fellow from the University of Glasgow, to share with members how HTA systems are developed in various overseas countries and the lessons we can learn from their experience.



Ms. Sabrina Chan, Executive Director of HKAPI, introduced the speakers and the meeting objectives.



Mrs. Sally Storey, Chair of the HTA and Enlistment Taskforce, gave an update on the work undertaken by the Taskforce.



Dr. Karen Facey explained the different HTA processes and systems and answered questions from member companies.



Over 20 company representatives attended the member's briefing.

Seminar on Patent for the Pharmaceutical Industry

As strong patent protection is vital to the research and development of pharmaceutical products, HKAPI Associate Member Hogan Lovells organized a seminar on 29th November for our members on patent protection for pharmaceuticals and how to deal legally with the entry of infringing generics.

Mr. Andrew Cobden, Consultant of Hogan Lovells, presented on the scope of patent protection in Hong Kong and the legal procedures and strategies a company can employ when there is an infringement of patented products or manufacturing process. Other patent issues such as patent term extensions, patent linkage, data exclusivity were also discussed. About 30 members attended the seminar and found the presentation very useful with practical information and advice provided.

Seminar on Trade Descriptions Ordinance

HKAPI Associate Member Baker & McKenzie organized a seminar on 10th October on the recent amendments to the Trade Descriptions (Unfair Trade Practices) (Amendment) Ordinance, which aims to help members to understand the business impact of the newly amended Ordinance and how the law can be applied to the daily operations of pharmaceutical companies. Ms. Isabella Liu, Partner of Baker & McKenzie, explained the scope of the Ordinance, the different categories of unfair trade practices including aggressive commercial practices, misleading omissions, bait advertising, bait and switch, wrongly accepting payments. Cases relating to the pharmaceutical industry were used to illustrate the new offenses and practical tips and recommendations such as greater clarity and

transparency in the provision of product information to consumers, greater awareness and training on the amended Ordinance were discussed during the seminar. Members attending the seminar found the information very practical for their day to day operation.



Ms. Isabella Liu of Baker & McKenzie, presented About 40 members attended the seminar. on the impact of the newly amended Trade Description Ordinance.

HKAPI Bowling Cup 2013 (Click [here](#) for more photos)

The annual HKAPI Bowling Cup was held on 1st November this year with the participation of 22 teams from our member companies to compete for the championship as well as the individual award in the men's and women's division.

Each team member bowled three games in the keen competition. The overall team championship finally went to MSD (Team B) with a high score of 2466, Sanofi (Team A) and Janssen (Team A) were the 1st Runner up and 2nd Runner up respectively.

In the individual division, Mr. Jonan Kwong of MSD won the men's championship and the women's division championship went to Ms. Tracy Ng of LF Asia. About 200 members joined the event and enjoyed a great evening filled with fun, cheers and excitement.

Results of the Bowling Cup

Men's Division

Champion: Jonan Kwong, MSD

1st Runner up: Parco Tsui, LF Asia

2nd Runner up: Joseph Chou, Sanofi

Women's Division

Champion: Tracy Ng, LF Asia

1st Runner up: Doris Fung, MSD

2nd Runner up: May Ng, Merck Pharma



Dr. Sian Ng, President, Ms. Kelly Lam, Vice President and Ms. Joanne Fan, Board of Directors of HKAPI kick-started the tournament.



The Team's Champion goes to MSD (Team B), Dr. Sian Ng, President of HKAPI, presented the award to the team.



Ms. Kelly Lam, Vice President of HKAPI, presented the prize to Men's Champion, Mr. Jonan Kwong of MSD.



Ms. Joanne Fan, HKAPI Board of Directors, presented the prize to Women's Champion, Ms. Tracy Ng of LF Asia – Healthcare Division.



22 teams competed for the championship in the Bowling Cup this year.

New HKAPI Members

HKAPI is pleased to welcome [Gilead Sciences Hong Kong Ltd](#), [Kerry Pharma \(HK\) Limited](#), [Korn/Ferry International \(H.K.\) Ltd](#) who joined as Full Member and Associate Member.

Gilead Sciences Hong Kong Ltd

Gilead Sciences, Inc. is a research-based biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and commercializes innovative medicines in areas of unmet medical need. We strive to transform and simplify care for people with life-threatening illnesses around the world. Gilead's portfolio of products and pipeline of investigational drugs includes treatments for HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, serious respiratory and cardiovascular conditions, cancer and inflammation.

Gilead was founded in 1987 in Foster City, California. Over the past 25 years, we have grown to become one of the world's largest biopharmaceutical companies, with approximately 5,800 employees across five continents.

Kerry Pharma (HK) Limited

Kerry Pharma (HK) Limited is a newly set up company which is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Kerry Logistics Network Limited, a leading logistics service provider in Asia. With a commitment to achieving the highest safety standards and adhering to strict regulatory requirements throughout the supply chain, Kerry Pharma understands the critical demands in Pharmaceutical and Healthcare industry where precious lives are involved. Our core focus is to offer a wide range of service from warehousing, distribution, sales and marketing, registration and regulatory to our business partners.

Korn/Ferry International (H.K.) Ltd

At Korn/Ferry, we design, build, attract and ignite talent. Since our inception, clients have trusted us to help recruit world-class leadership. Founded in 1969 and having been present in Hong Kong since 1978, we are a single source for leadership and talent consulting services to empower business and leaders to reach their goals. Our solutions range from executive recruitment and leadership development programs, to enterprise learning, succession planning, and recruitment process outsourcing.

Upcoming Event

HKAPI Annual Dinner

The 45th HKAPI Annual Dinner will be held on 15th January, 2014 and we are very delighted to have Professor John Leong Chi-yan as our guest of honour.

Details of the Annual Dinner are as follows:

Date: 15th January 2014

Time: 6:45 pm - 10:00 pm

Venue: Salon 1-5 (Level 3), JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong

For enquires and RSVP: Please contact Ms. Idy Wong at info@hkapi.hk
