

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

FHB(FE)055

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1462

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the commencement of field work of the first Total Diet Study in Hong Kong to assess risks of various food hazards by the Department in 2010-11, please provide details, including specific contents of the field work, timetable, financial provision and manpower required.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

Total Diet Study (TDS) is internationally recognised as the most cost-effective way to estimate the dietary intake of various substances including contaminants and nutrients across the total diet for a range of population groups. The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) is conducting the first TDS in Hong Kong to estimate the dietary exposures of the Hong Kong population to a range of substances and assess any associated health risks.

CFS has commissioned the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) to carry out the fieldwork of the TDS which includes sampling and food sample preparation work, at a contract value of about HK\$1.24 million. CUHK has started the fieldwork in March 2010 for completion in February 2011. CFS would perform laboratory analysis of the food samples collected in the fieldwork of over 110 substances, including persistent organic pollutants, pesticide residues, heavy metals, processing contaminants, mycotoxins, other contaminants and nutrients to estimate the dietary exposures of the Hong Kong population. The laboratory analysis work would be undertaken by CFS' existing staff. Reports on the TDS will be released by phases starting from 2011.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ W H CHEUK

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 15.3.2010