

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

FHB(FE)070

Head: 49 Food and Environmental
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0841

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is stated under Programme (1) that the Department will commence field work of the first Total Diet Study (TDS) in Hong Kong to assess risks of various food hazards. The Department conducted a lot of field work on food each year in the past. How is the first TDS in Hong Kong different from other studies undertaken previously? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kin-por

Reply:

The previous risk assessment studies conducted by the Department focused on individual food chemical hazards for a specific population group, the secondary school students in Hong Kong. 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 by existing staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

W H CHEUK

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

15.3.2010