

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)223

(Question Serial No. 3531)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the details of the Government's initiative to promote the reduction of salt and sugar in diet in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 62)

Reply:

The Government announced in Policy Agenda 2015 to devise and implement a strategic plan to reduce intake of salt and sugar in food to promote a healthy diet. The Government's target is to gradually reduce the intake of salt and sugar by Hong Kong citizens to the levels recommended by the World Health Organization.

In this connection, the Government set up in March 2015 the Committee on Reduction of Salt and Sugar in Food (the Committee). Members of the Committee comprise representatives from different sectors, including healthcare professional organisations, the food trade, the relevant academia, the media, consumers and the education sector. The Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Secretary for Food and Health on the formulation of policy directions and work plans to reduce the intake of salt and sugar by the public, as well as to reduce salt and sugar in food. The first Committee meeting was held on 27 March 2015. At the same time, the Government will continue to draw reference from the advice on international experiences rendered by the International Advisory Panel on Reduction of Salt and Sugar in Food (the Panel) (formerly known as International Advisory Panel on Reduction of Dietary Sodium and Sugars in Hong Kong) which comprises five renowned public health experts from the Mainland and overseas.

The Government will devise the strategy to reduce salt and sugar in food taking into account the recommendations and views of the Committee and the Panel.