

Press Release

## **Hong Kong Breast Cancer Registry Hong Kong's First Data Collection System for Breast Cancer First Report: Breast Cancer Facts in Hong Kong 2008 Report**

**(16 September 2009 – Hong Kong)** Non-government, non-profit charitable organization Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation (HKBCF) announced its first set of preliminary findings today from the research conducted since the launch of Hong Kong's first Breast Cancer Registry (HKBCR) in 2007. The data of some 1000 breast cancer cases were collected, analysed and consolidated into the first "Breast Cancer Facts in Hong Kong 2008 Report".

"Breast cancer is the most prevalent cancer among women in Hong Kong in terms of incidence. On average, 7 women are newly diagnosed of breast cancer every day. From the data collected from a sample size of 1000 thus far, the median age at which breast cancer is diagnosed in Hong Kong is 47.6, quite significantly lower than the USA and Australia, whose median ages are 61 and 62 respectively. This is, however, based on only results from the private sector, which is only 25% of the Hong Kong medical industry. To be able to ensure wider coverage in our findings, we are pleased that the public sector has indicated interest to join us and we have started collaboration with several public hospitals," stated Dr. Polly Cheung, Chairman of the Hong Kong Breast Cancer Registry Steering Committee.

The Breast Cancer Facts in Hong Kong 2008 Report also found that 74% of the participants lacked exercise: they had less than 3 hours of exercise each week. This is an increasing phenomenon in Hong Kong especially amongst office ladies and may be of concern. Another risk factor is "no breast-feeding", with a 64% occurrence rate amongst the participants.

"The Hong Kong Breast Cancer Registry is of great importance to the study of breast cancer in Hong Kong because HKBCR is capable of capturing more variables such as lifestyle and risk factors in private settings, while Hong Kong Cancer Registry covers nearly the entire population, albeit minimal data variables," commented Dr. CK Law, Director of Hong Kong Cancer Registry.

In order for a cancer registry to be of good scientific value, “the coverage of the registry and the accuracy of the data must be as broad and high as possible,” continued Dr. Law.

“Beginning this year, we have started collaborating with several public and private hospitals, including the Prince Margaret Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital, United Christian Hospital and Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital. We have also enlisted support from over 100 specialists and experts in the breast cancer field. We are heartened by the commitment of our patient volunteers, health care professionals and others concerned as well as the encouragement of the Government in the first stage of the breast cancer registry. It is in keeping with the spirit of public-private partnership in seeking to enhance Hong Kong’s health care quality and maintaining our international standards as a health care hub of Asia,” continued Dr. Cheung.

“Public support is absolutely vital to ensure that the Hong Kong Breast Cancer Registry is effective and comprehensive enough to be of help to the community. It is equally important that the general public is educated on the importance of the Registry so that they would lend support. I would call on all to participate or support to this worthy cause,” said Ms. Chan Yuen-han, former Legislative Council member.

For more information about the HKBCR, to participate, or donate, please access [www.hkbcf.org/breastcancerregistry](http://www.hkbcf.org/breastcancerregistry)

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### **About Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation**

Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation (HKBCF) is a charitable organization dedicated to raise public awareness of breast cancer and the importance of early detection, provide support for breast cancer patients on their road to recovery, support research and advocate for better breast cancer care in Hong Kong. The formation of HKBCF is based on the vision in the need for total care of breast cancer patients, from medical treatment alone, to paramedical care, psychosocial care, so that they can recover fully, resume their role in society and their family, and live their life to the full.

### **About Hong Kong Breast Cancer Registry**

The Hong Kong Breast Cancer Registry (HKBCR) is the first cancer specific population-wide registry established as a local breast cancer information collection system aims at providing vital data, analysis and insights for HKBCF, health care professionals, policy makers and the wider public with a view to advocating better breast health care and patient education in Hong Kong.