

Women in Healthcare: Inspiring stories from Asia Pacific

Dr. Libby Lee, Director, Strategy & Planning Division, Hong Kong Hospital Authority



Dr. LEE is the Director of the Strategy and Planning Division at the Hospital Authority administration. The Hospital Authority provides public healthcare services to the 7 million Hong Kong population through 27,000 beds in 43 public hospitals. The scope of her works includes strategy, service, capital and annual planning for the whole Hospital Authority. The current projects include the Hong Kong Children's Hospital, Queen Mary Hospital, United Christian Hospital, Kwong Wah Hospital, and the Hospital at Kai Tak etc.

HMA interviewed Dr. Lee and asked her about the challenges in being a leader in healthcare:

What are your biggest achievements in hospital management and healthcare services in 2016?

Set up the 5-years strategic plan for the Hospital Authority (the only statutory organization overseeing the public healthcare services in Hong Kong. We run 43 hospitals and 75 primary care clinics).

Establish the Rehabilitation Strategic Service Framework and Palliative care Strategic Service Framework for the public healthcare system.

Manage the 10-years hospital development projects in which 16 hospitals/facilities will be involved, with a worth of MOD \$200Billion HKD. Hong Kong Children Hospital, the only children hospital in Hong Kong, is going to commence service in 2018.

What has been the most exciting thing that you worked on in 2016?

Planning for the Hong Kong Children Hospital (HKCH). It will require re-organizing the paediatric services in Hong Kong, given the HKCH is the Hub for low volume and highly complex cases and the other paediatric units will be the Spoke providing secondary care. It means some of the services, manpower and resources in the existing paediatric units will be translocated to the HKCH.

What are the main challenges in being a leader in healthcare?

Timely communication with different internal and external stakeholders especially in times of crisis / emergency. HA is an organization of 70000 staff. It is a challenge to deliver the right message to them and gets their feedback.

Cultural change especially if the organization is that huge and with a strong historical background.

What are the new technologies that you are looking to implement in the near future? Any tool or technique that particularly interests you?

Genomics and genetics development, especially in cancer care.

Finally, who is the healthcare leader that inspires you the most?

Hippocrates. His belief endlessly inspire us what we should do even in modern medicine and how we should design our healthcare system: Primum non nocerum

"As to disease, make a habit of two things: to help; or at least to do no harm"

"Cure sometimes, treat often comfort always"

"It is far more important to know what person the disease has than what disease the person has."

To learn more about the healthcare challenges in Asia Pacific, join us on 23-24 August 2017 at the 16th Hospital Management Asia. This annual conference will be held at Shangri-La the Fort, Manila, Philippines. Visit www.hospitalmanagementasia.com and register today.