



## Highlights of the 26th World Sterilization Congress

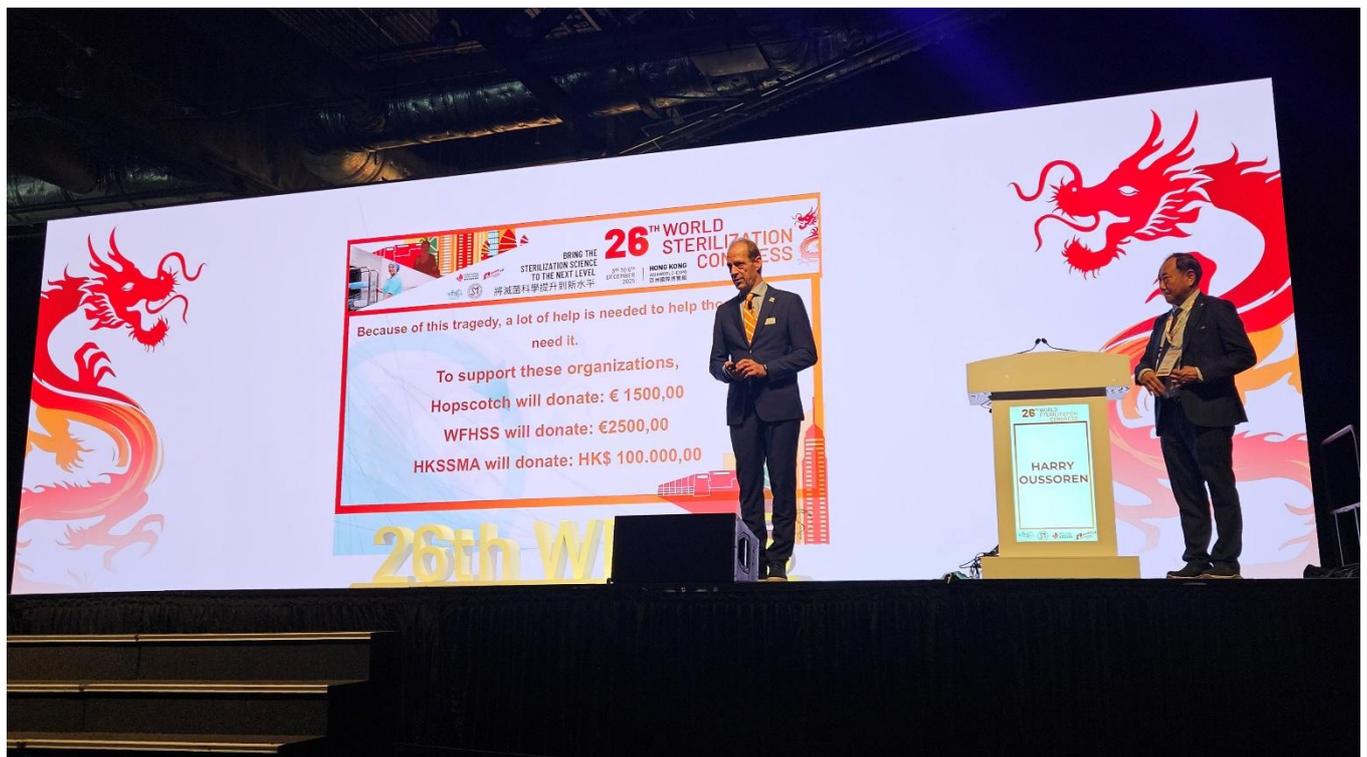
The 26th World Sterilization Congress was Jointly organized by the **World Federation for Hospital Sterilization Sciences (WFHSS)** and the **Hong Kong Sterile Services Management Association (HKSSMA)** in early December 2025 at AsiaWorld Expo. The event marked a significant milestone in global collaboration, welcoming more than 1,500 delegates from across 56 countries. With the theme **“Bring the Sterilization Science to the Next Level,”** the congress underscored the international commitment to advancing sterilization practices and ensuring patient safety.



The Hong Kong Sterile Services Management Association has been honored with the 'Outstanding Social Caring Organization Award' by Social Enterprise Research Academy. 香港消毒服务管理协会荣获社会企业研究学会颁发“社会关爱企业卓越奖”。



On the evening of 3rd December 2025, the opening ceremony began with a solemn one-minute silence in memory of the victims of the recent Tai Po fire tragedy. In a gesture of solidarity and compassion, **HKSSMA donated HK\$100,000** and **WFHSS contributed €2,500** to support the affected families.



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This was followed by keynote addresses from **Mr. Harry Oussoren**, President of WFHSS, and **Mr. Samuel Law**, Chairman of HKSSMA, who emphasized the congress theme and the importance of fostering innovation and excellence in sterilization sciences. The ceremony was further enriched by a captivating cultural performance featuring Face Changing and traditional Chinese music, marking the official commencement of the congress.



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On the morning of 4th December, the congress was formally inaugurated with keynote speeches delivered by **Dr. Edmond Ma**, Head of the Infection Control Branch at the Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health, and **Ms. Gangyi Peng**, a leading representative of Sterile Services from the Greater Bay Area.



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Renowned speakers from around the world shared their expertise in sterilization sciences. Out of the 26 official conferences, **eight speakers represented China**, including both mainland and Hong Kong. One China speaker developed the CSSDGPT platform. This AI tool greatly facilitates the sterilization knowledge sharing and development in the sterilization field.

### 1. How We Built CSSDGPT: A Generative AI Assistant Designed for Reprocessing Practitioners

*Mr. Yongpeng QIN (Jim CHIN), Founder, Honjo Medical*

CSSDGPT is a generative AI model built with a Retrieval-Augmented Generation framework to provide instant, expert answers for sterile services departments. Trained on authoritative guidelines and refined through staff feedback, it achieved near-perfect accuracy, cut query resolution time from 15 minutes to under 30 seconds, and was preferred by most staff over traditional methods. Though currently limited to Chinese text input, future plans include multilingual support, voice operation, and integration with CSSD traceability systems.



Notably, **four speakers from Hong Kong** came from hospitals within the **New Territories West Cluster (NTWC)** to present their studies, with one poster receiving an award in the poster contest. These contributions showcased the professional strength and research innovation and highlighted the advancement in sterilization sciences in Hong Kong :-

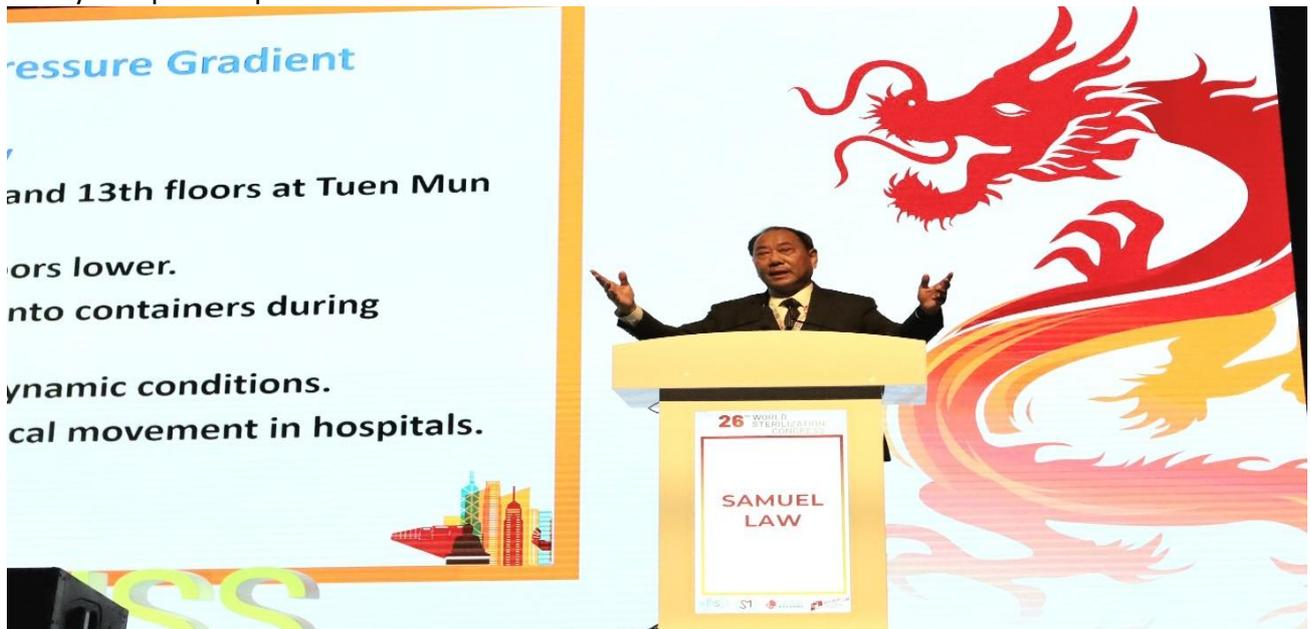
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## 2. Performance Test for Sealing Capability of Rigid Containers

*Mr. Samuel LAW, Chairman of HKSSMA. Ex-Cluster Operation Manager, CSSDs, NTWC*

This study demonstrated that **visual inspection alone is insufficient** to verify container performance. A **smoke test** was introduced to simulate airborne contaminants and recommended as a routine qualification tool. Findings revealed that the silicone seal of sterile containers progressively loses elasticity and sealing capability with age, compromising barrier integrity. Therefore, the regular replacement of sealing gaskets was identified as a mandatory measure to safeguard sterilization safety and protect patient outcomes.



Mr. Law was also shared his expert knowledge in 2 plenary symposiums to introduce the development of Hong Kong Tracking and Tracing System and role of AI technology in building a data-driven Intelligent Decision-Making CSSD platform.



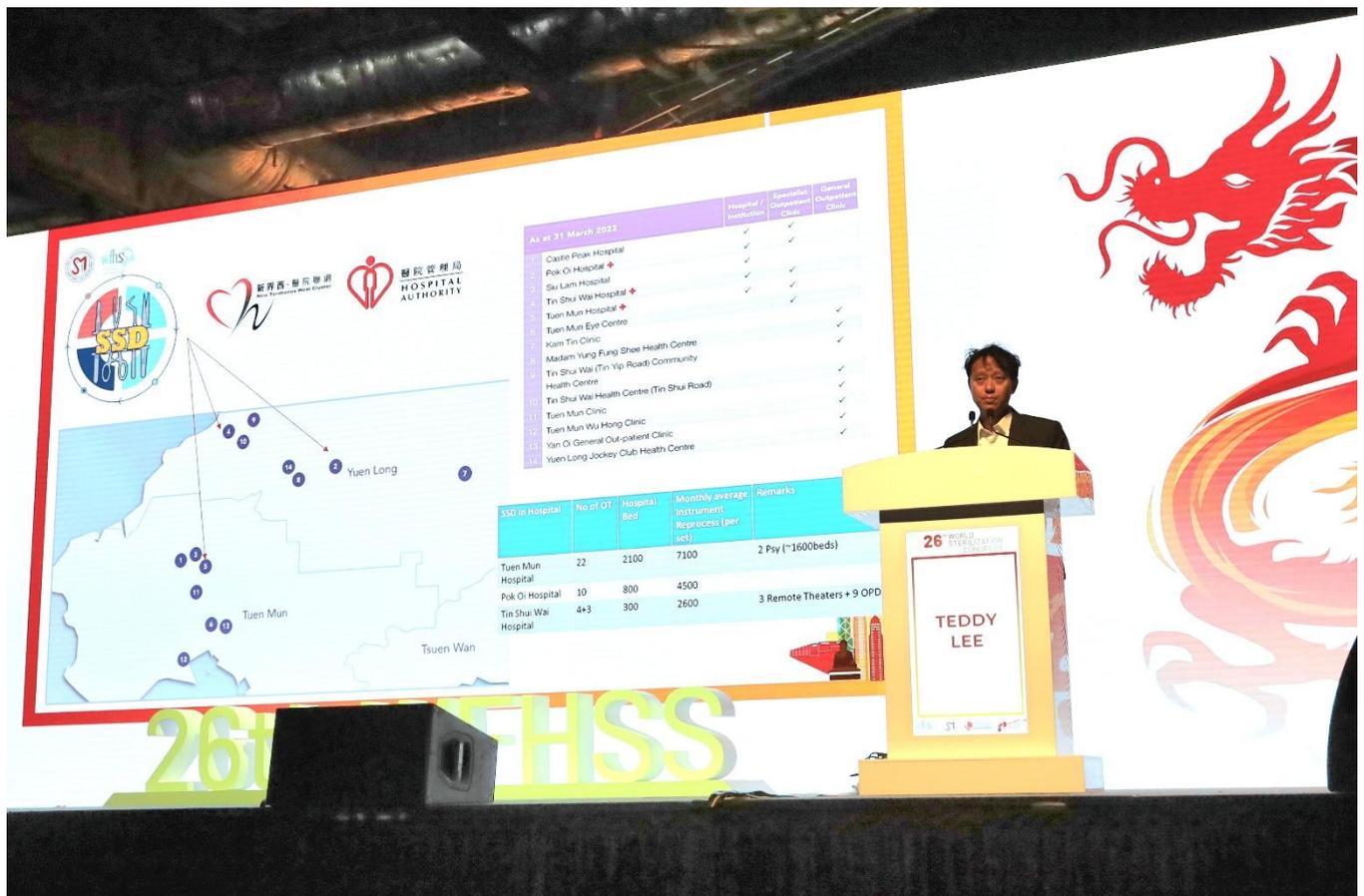
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### 3. Hong Kong Experience in Control of Wet Packs through a Scientific Approach

**Mr. Teddy LEE**, Vice-Chairman of HKSSMA, Department Operations Manager, Sterile Service Departments (SSD), NTWC

The Hong Kong experience demonstrates how applying scientific principles to steam sterilization can effectively control wet pack incidents in SSD, safeguarding patient safety and compliance. By integrating multidisciplinary teamwork, continuous training, and evidence-based interventions, such as limiting instrument set weight, optimizing pack arrangement, enhancing drying cycles, and monitoring nearly missed incidents. The team achieved a dramatic reduction from 82 wet pack cases annually to just 5. This approach underscores that disciplined process management, rigorous equipment checks, and strategic post-cycle handling not only prevent compromised sterility but also foster a culture of excellence in hospital sterilization workflows.



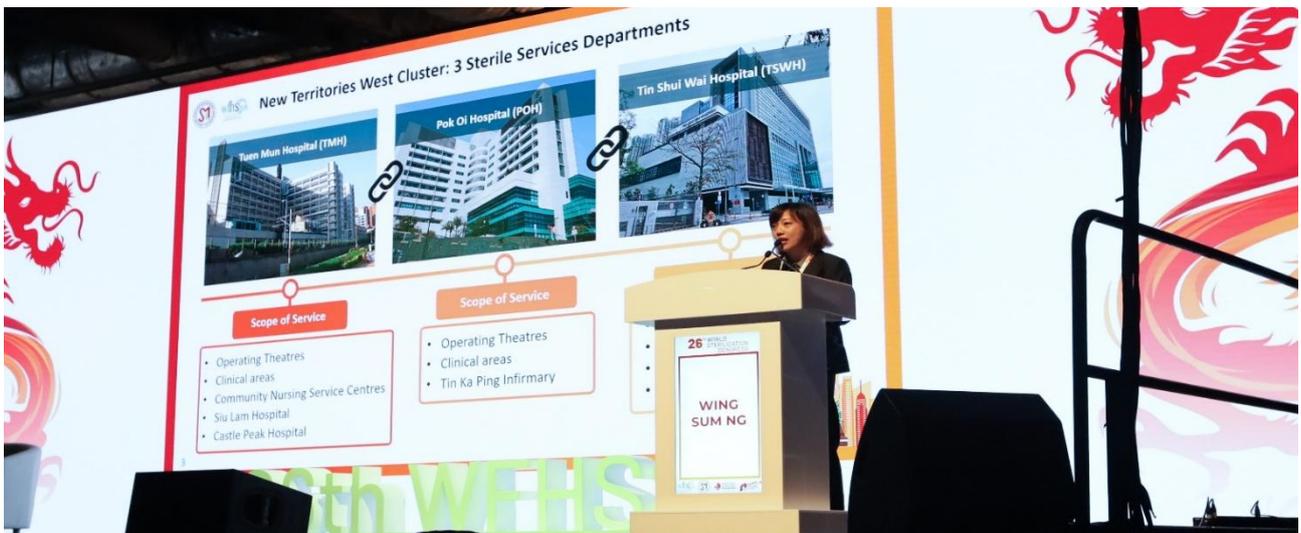
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#### 4. Comparative Analysis of Human Resources in Sterile Services Departments at Three Hospitals: Insights from Instrument Check Performance

*Ms. NG Wing Sum, Sterile Services Executive Officer, SSD, NTWC*

This study examined packaging performance and operational demands across three hospitals, revealing how uneven workloads can affect product quality. Findings provide valuable insights for improving efficiency and human resource management. Future research will explore job satisfaction and incident rates to further strengthen SSD operations.



#### 5. Enhancement of Steam Sterilizer Automatic Control Test with Datalogger Application (Poster Award)

*Mr. YEUN Kai Cheung, Sterile Service Supervisor, SSD, NTWC*

The Automatic Control Test (ACT) ensures steam sterilizers comply with standards. Traditional methods were prone to human error and time-consuming. A project launched in early 2024 introduced datalogger technology to automate the process, improving data accuracy, optimizing sterilizer performance, and enhancing patient safety and service quality.



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Last but not least, the “**Sterile Supply**” journal also joined the congress. Founded in 2022 (ISSN: 2791-2043, CODEN: SSTUB6), the journal distinguishes itself as an **open-access** publication, freely accessible without barriers. It is a quarterly, peer-reviewed international academic journal published in English, dedicated to the field of sterile supply and its related specialties. The journal provides an excellent platform for professionals worldwide to share knowledge and scientific findings, thereby fostering collaboration and advancing our collective journey in Sterilization Sciences. For more information, please submit your future research studies by visiting the following link:

<https://www.ss-journal.com/homeNav?lang=en>



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The 26th World Sterilization Congress in Hong Kong concluded as a resounding success, marked by vibrant collaboration, creativity, and scientific advancement. Delegates from across the globe exchanged groundbreaking ideas, shared best practices, and forged new partnerships that will elevate sterilization science to the next level. Through insightful presentations, innovative solutions, and collective commitment, the congress not only advanced technical excellence and patient safety but also strengthened the global community of sterile services professionals. This gathering has left a lasting legacy of unity, innovation, and progress that will continue to shape the future of healthcare worldwide.



Director of Publications  
HKSSMA  
20<sup>th</sup> December 2025

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