

For Immediate Release

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## Bird-flu alert in Hong Kong

This week in the news Hong Kong health authorities tested H5 positive for bird flu, leading to suspension of chicken and poultry imports for 21 days along with government's plan to slaughter 80,000 birds. As investigation is underway on whether the virus is that of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain, Hong Kong is reminded of the major bird flu outbreak in 2002 where nearly a million birds were slaughtered and the 1997 outbreak that led to six human fatalities.

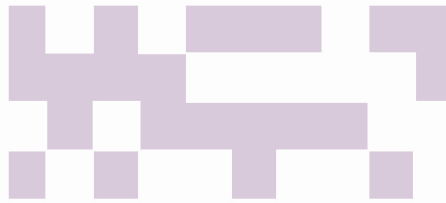
Published reports of this week's incidence also brought the bird flu vaccine into question, as it was noted that some of the infected chickens from the licensed farm were vaccinated. World health authorities and infectious disease expert comments that vaccination alone is not a panacea for this tenacious virus, reminding farmers, poultry integrators, local governments and industry groups to remain vigilant about testing birds and livestock against viral pathogens.

Angenomics Limited (of Hai Kang Life Corporation Limited) provides sensitive and rapid molecular test kits for detection of AIV subtype H5, H7 and a generic version targeting H1-H16. The test kits are available across conventional to real time PCR platform and as well our NASBA technology-based kits which have received government approval and recognition from Japan and China. Molecular testing methods are adaptable to very high-throughputs and with high performances in terms of sensitivity and specificity, Hai Kang Life's test kits make suitable use for today's monitoring and surveillance measures implemented in government, veterinary, industry and border control capacities.

Whilst fear remains globally that the H5N1 strain of the avian influenza virus could mutate into a form which becomes transmissible between humans, enforcement of control and preventive measures are critical to prevent large scale outbreaks. Eradication of avian influenza virus cannot be achieved to date, and so the availability of sensitive and rapid molecular detection tools is essential to prevent infected poultry reaching the retail market.

Angenomics Limited is the subsidiary arm of Hai Kang Life Corporation Limited that brings to you veterinary virus diagnostic tools and emerging technologies today for tomorrow's challenges to animal health.





## Company Background

The vision of Hai Kang Life Corporation Limited is to be *the* world's leading Biotechnology Company in molecular diagnostics – growing the Asian biotechnology industry in a globally competitive manner. This vision extends to developing its novel Lab-on-a-Chip system into a fully-functional platform that will revolutionize the practice of clinical diagnostics.

Hai Kang Life has been quick and accurate to respond during the recent outbreaks of avian influenza (AI), foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). We have established relationships with government health and agriculture agencies in various countries throughout the South Pacific region and the Middle East; this enables us to maneuver quickly to assist during emergencies, monitor the climate of the biotechnology industry and keep abreast of changing rules, regulations, needs and trends.

For further information about any of our products and services please contact:

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