Hong Kong must wake up to its reliance on food imports and work on safe and affordable supplies, writes Janet Pau

Green local pastures and work on safe and affordable supplies, writes SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

To climate change (through higher per capita energy use) and decreased food security as a result of increasing food prices, for example, are some consequences of migration pressures. As these trends increase, demand for food will expand and could produce crop failures and put pressure on food supplies. At the same time, existing arable land is already being used to its fullest extent, so new lands need to be acquired. However, this expensive, risky and short-term strategy is not an option for long-term sustainability. It is time for Hong Kong to consider strategic actions to ensure food affordability and sustainability for the city. Two areas are worth focusing on.

First, the government should encourage public and private investment in scaling up developments of urban farms. Neighboring territories are already engaging with urban agriculture through small farms with strong support from local businesses.

Hong Kong has more than 100 local cooperative farms that supply a small share of the city’s food, but there is a growing movement to acquire more land. In particular, vertical farming and “urban farms” (greenhouses), which maximise the use of limited arable land and human energy, should be explored. By reducing external inputs, less resource is wasted on the journey to the table, and at the same time, significant cost savings can be achieved. As a result of this, beyond the food for its own population, Hong Kong should position itself as an urban hub for food safety and sustainability. The city is the only place in the world that can maximise the use of urban food, and it can also provide a solution to the food waste problem.

The second focus area is food security. Although Hong Kong produces 10 per cent of its own food, a range of factors contribute to food insecurity. For example, rainfall is seasonable, food prices are subject to external shocks, and there is a focus on healthy eating, which means public hospital survey here, the rate of exclusive breastfeeding is low and the duration is short. The proportion of breastfeeding infants is only for the poor. The mentality of some women is that they need to save their own natural feeding patterns. Hong Kong can create new markets for food businesses, cut health care costs and improve its competitiveness in the supply chain. At times of prosperity, Hong Kong should think more strategically about preparing to cope with a time of need.

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Voices: Business

Corporate governance reforms just start baby steps

Saunders Whitley

When Hong Kong stock exchange is writing in the right direction with its corporate governance reform proposals, and there are 12% are in the right direction, etc. This phenomenon is not unique to Hong Kong, or the world, but is a worldwide trend. However, Hong Kong has become the focus of the world’s attention because the government is determined to make the necessary changes. In the end, the new corporate governance guidelines will ensure the health of Hong Kong’s financial system. The government should play a leading role in promoting corporate governance reform.

Mike Chugani

Official disconnect

When Donald Trump takes office, there are no guarantees that the United States will join the rest of the world in addressing climate change. The United States is a major polluter and is responsible for a significant portion of global greenhouse gas emissions. China, India, and other emerging economies have made commitments to reduce their emissions, but the United States has not. The Trump administration has expressed skepticism about the science of climate change and has indicated that it will withdraw from the Paris Agreement, which sets a global goal of limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The United States is the world’s largest emitter of greenhouse gases and has a major role to play in any international effort to combat climate change. However, if the United States withdraws from the Paris Agreement, it will set a negative example for other countries and make it more difficult for the world to reach the goal of limiting global warming. The United States should continue to play a leadership role in addressing climate change, even if it is not in line with the rest of the world. The United States has a responsibility to future generations and to the planet as a whole to take action on climate change. The United States should not abandon its commitment to addressing climate change and should continue to work with other countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The United States should also support the development and deployment of clean energy technologies, which can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change. The United States should continue to lead by example and show that it is possible to address climate change while maintaining economic growth and prosperity.