

Nineteen immigration offenders arrested (with photos)

The Immigration Department (ImmD) mounted an anti-illegal worker operation codenamed "Twilight" yesterday (August 12). A total of 13 illegal workers and six suspected employers were arrested.

During the operation, ImmD Task Force officers raided 10 restaurants on Hong Kong Island. The illegal workers comprised six men and seven women, aged 31 to 54. Among them, one man was a holder of a recognisance form, which prohibits him from taking any employment. In addition, five men and three women were suspected of using and being in possession of forged Hong Kong identity cards. Meanwhile, five men and one woman, aged 30 to 56, were suspected of employing the illegal workers.

"Any person who contravenes a condition of stay in force in respect of him shall be guilty of an offence. Also, visitors are not allowed to take employment in Hong Kong, whether paid or unpaid, without the permission of the Director of Immigration. Offenders are liable to prosecution and upon conviction face a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to two years' imprisonment. Aiders and abettors are also liable to prosecution and penalties," an ImmD spokesman said.

The spokesman warned that, as stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, illegal immigrants or people who are the subject of a removal order or a deportation order are prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining in any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. The Court of Appeal has issued a guideline ruling that a sentence of 15 months' imprisonment should be applied in such cases. It is an offence to use or possess a forged Hong Kong identity card or a Hong Kong identity card related to another person. Offenders are liable to prosecution and a maximum penalty of a \$100,000 fine and up to 10 years' imprisonment.

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for three years and a fine of \$350,000. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence. According to the court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card.

The maximum penalty for failing to inspect such a document is imprisonment for one year and a fine of \$150,000.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure, conduct initial screening of vulnerable persons, including illegal workers, illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers, who are arrested during any operation with a view to ascertaining whether they are trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threat and coercion in the recruitment phase and the nature of exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various forms of support and assistance, including urgent intervention, medical services, counselling, shelter, temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments.



[InvestHK encourages Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region enterprises to “go global” via Hong Kong amid Belt and Road Initiative \(with photo\)](#)

Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) held an investment promotion seminar in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, today (August 13) to update local enterprises on Hong Kong's business environment, tax and financing advantages, and encourage them to expand their business globally via the city.

The seminar, entitled "Belt and Road, Together We Grow", was jointly organised by InvestHK and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Committee. Associate

Director-General of Investment Promotion Mr Vincent Tang and the Vice Chairman of the People's Government of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Ms Ai Lihua, delivered welcome remarks at the event.

Mr Tang told the seminar about how Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region enterprises leverage Hong Kong's business advantages to "go global". He said, "The economic development of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region has grown rapidly. Many local enterprises have already set up their business in Hong Kong, using the city as their international platform to 'go global'. Hong Kong plays an important role in the Belt and Road Initiative. Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region enterprises can leverage the city's international financial platform and professional services to expand overseas and structure finance projects. Hong Kong has well-developed and mature financial infrastructure, free flow of capital and diverse finance channels. The city is the world's largest offshore Renminbi centre as well as the leading asset management hub in Asia. Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region enterprises can make use of the diversified professional services to access the very best accounting and tax, legal, product design, engineering management and project planning services and much more, expanding their business along the Belt and Road development."

He also told the audience that the Hong Kong Government has introduced various policies and measures to boost innovation and technology development. It has also introduced tax incentives to promote local research and development (R&D), encouraging private enterprises to undertake more R&D activities.

The Senior Manager of the Northern China Unit of InvestHK, Mr William Ren, further elaborated on Hong Kong's advantages and how Mainland enterprises can capitalise on the city's business services to "go global". The Partner, Tax and China Business Advisory Service of PwC Ltd, Ms Cathy Jiang, and the Assistant Vice President of Global Issuer Services, Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, Ms Wang Xiaofang, talked about how to make use of Hong Kong's taxation advantages to capture opportunities amid Belt and Road initiatives, as well as the reasons to list in the city and the latest developments of the Hong Kong securities market. The Immigration Officer of the Office of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in Beijing, Mr Jim Chin, explained to the audience the work visa arrangements for Mainland enterprises. The Hong Kong Business Manager, Overseas Sales Region, Sales System of Inner Mongolia Mongniu Dairy (Group) Co Ltd, Mr Bai Huaifu, also spoke on his company's experience on how to tap the opportunities arising from the Belt and Road Initiative for internationalisation via Hong Kong.

About InvestHK

InvestHK is the department of the HKSAR Government responsible for attracting foreign direct investment and supporting overseas and Mainland businesses to set up or expand in Hong Kong. It provides free advice and customised services for overseas and Mainland companies. For more information, please visit www.investhk.gov.hk.

For an event photo, please visit

www.flickr.com/photos/investhk/albums/72157710190822002.



Red flag hoisted at Lo So Shing Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (August 13) that due to big waves, the red flag has been hoisted at Lo So Shing Beach in Islands District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.

Lifesaving services at Golden Beach resume

Attention TV/Radio Announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at regular intervals:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department has announced that the lifesaving services at Golden Beach in Tuen Mun District resumed today (August 13). The lifesaving services at the beach were suspended earlier due to an insufficient number of lifeguards on duty.

Lifesaving services suspended at Golden Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at regular intervals:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (August 13) that due to an insufficient number of lifeguards on duty, the lifesaving services at Golden Beach in Tuen Mun District are suspended until further notice.

First-aid services will be maintained at the beach.