

SCED: Hong Kong-US trade and economic relationship mutually beneficial and expanding

Speaking during a visit to the United States (US), the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, said that the trade and economic relationship between Hong Kong and the US is mutually beneficial and expanding. It is also a relationship defined on the unique status of Hong Kong under the Basic Law and distinct qualities of Hong Kong which include the rule of law buttressed by an independent judiciary; a commitment to creating a pro-trade environment; and the free flow of information, goods and people, he said.

Mr Yau, who is on a four-day visit to Washington, DC made the comments at a reception today (June 11, Eastern Standard Time) hosted by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Washington, DC for US government officials, think tank members, academics, and leaders of chambers of commerce and business organisations.

Mr Yau noted that US has enjoyed its highest trade surplus globally with Hong Kong since 2009, with the aggregate trade in goods surplus over the past decade amounting to US\$297 billion. Hong Kong is also an attractive destination for US direct investment. In 2017, US foreign direct investment in Hong Kong was over US\$81 billion. There are roughly 1 400 US companies and 85 000 American citizens in Hong Kong, one of the most significant foreign presences in the city.

He said Hong Kong will continue to explore ways to deepen and broaden its links with the US in areas such as collaborations in innovation and technology and educational, scientific and medical exchanges. He cited an example in the start-up scene that in 2018 nearly 16 per cent of non-local founders of start-ups in Hong Kong were from the US.

Earlier today, Mr Yau met with US political leaders and representatives of a think tank to keep them abreast of Hong Kong's latest developments, as well as to exchange views on current trade issues and the Hong Kong-US bilateral relationship.

Mr Yau had a breakfast meeting with the former US Secretary of Commerce, Mr Carlos Gutierrez, before meeting with US congressional members, namely the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Mr Chuck Grassley; the Chairman of the Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific and International Cybersecurity Policy of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr Cory Gardner; and the Chairman of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Mr James McGovern.

Mr Yau also had a lunch meeting with senior members of the Heritage Foundation, including its founder, Dr Edwin Feulner. He welcomed the

Foundation's high regard for Hong Kong as the world's freest economy for 25 consecutive years, which he said reaffirmed the Government's steadfast commitment in upholding free market principles over the years.

Mr Yau will continue his visit programme in Washington, DC, tomorrow (June 12, Eastern Standard Time).

Special arrangements for LegCo Complex

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) Secretariat issued an Amber alert today (June 12). When the Amber alert is in force, the special arrangements for the LegCo Complex are as follows:

(a) all guided tours are suspended;

(b) all services to the public, including the service of the Public Complaints Office and visits to the LegCo Library, Archives and Children's Corner, are suspended; and

(c) the LegCo Cafeteria is closed.

Response to media enquiries by Development Bureau and Lands Department

In response to media enquiries on a site, New Kowloon Inland Lot No. 6546 at Kai Tak Area 4C Site 4, Kai Tak, Kowloon, the spokespersons for the Development Bureau (DEVB) and the Lands Department (LandsD) responded as follows today (June 11).

The LandsD announced on May 15 that the tender for a site, New Kowloon Inland Lot No. 6546 (the lot) at Kai Tak Area 4C Site 4, Kai Tak, Kowloon, had been awarded to High Smart Investment Limited (parent company: Frontier Journey Limited) for a term of 50 years at a premium of \$11,124,470,520. High Smart Investment Limited is the highest tenderer.

According to General Condition No. 2 of the Conditions of Sale (the Conditions) governing the lot, the Purchaser, i.e. High Smart Investment

Limited, shall pay the balance of the premium being the amount of \$11,099,470,520 on or before June 11. In the event that the Purchaser fails to pay the balance of premium by the deadline as mentioned above, the Government may either enforce or cancel the sale in accordance with General Condition No. 3 of the Conditions. On cancellation, the sum forwarded by the Purchaser with his tender as a deposit (being \$25,000,000) shall be wholly forfeited to the Government, and the Government will decide to resell the lot at such time and in such manner as the Government shall deem fit. The Government also reserves its rights to claim against the Purchaser for the breach of contract under the Conditions. The LandsD will take appropriate actions in accordance with General Condition No. 3 of the Conditions after seeking legal advice.

A spokesperson for the DEVB said that this was an individual case and the Government would not comment on the decision of the tenderer or its parent company, which was made in accordance with their own business considerations. The Government will continue to provide steady land supply to the market, which will not be affected by the result of an individual tender exercise.

[Speech by CE at Asian University for Women Gala Dinner \(English Only\) \(with photos/video\)](#)

Following is the speech by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at the Asian University for Women Gala Dinner this evening (June 11):

Mr Ahmad (the Founder of the Asian University for Women, Mr Kamal Ahmad), ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening. It really gives me great pleasure to join you tonight for Hong Kong's third Asian University for Women (AUW) Gala Dinner.

Like countries and economies, institutions and individuals all over the world, Hong Kong has embraced the AUW, its vision, its inspiration and, in just over a decade, its resounding impact throughout the region. Like me, you are here this evening because you believe in the mandate of the AUW, and because you are heartened by the promise of its students, women largely from Asia's rural and economically marginalised regions. We are all exhilarated by their potential to become leaders in their countries and communities, and to have a voice that is heard and respected.

Education plays a big part in unleashing women's potential. I grew up in a grassroots family, and my parents were uneducated. However, they attached great importance to my education and put me in the best school they could

find in those days. Their decision has no doubt changed my life. I went on to study in the University of Hong Kong, and after graduation, I began my long public service career, starting out as a young Administrative Officer 39 years ago. In less than three weeks, I'll mark my second year as Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region – the first woman to hold this office. I'm sure I won't be the last.

I am definitely not the only woman who has benefited from Hong Kong's education. It's worth noting that, since the first female student was admitted to the University of Hong Kong in 1921, Hong Kong has achieved gender equality in education. Our female students are flourishing and excelling academically. Indeed, women today represent 54 per cent of the students enrolled in undergraduate programmes funded by our University Grants Committee. And more and more women in our universities are focusing on disciplines that were traditionally dominated by men. Just two decades ago, about 37 per cent of Hong Kong medical students were female. Today more than half of our medical students are women. Consider, too, engineering and technology majors. From about 14 per cent two decades ago, female students focused on those disciplines now count 30 per cent of the total.

Gender equality in education has enabled our women to enjoy equal employment opportunities. In Hong Kong, women are protected by the same labour legislation as men are. Women now comprise nearly half of our solicitors and public accountants, compared to about one-third two decades ago. Over the same period, managerial positions in Hong Kong have gone from about 20 per cent filled by women to 35 per cent. Those percentages are very much similar to those in our Government. Today, more than one-third of Hong Kong civil servants at the directorate level, that is the most senior level, are women. Two decades ago, that percentage was just over 15 per cent.

Still, working women do face a lot of challenges in striking a balance between their important role in their family and the development of their career. The participation rate of our female labour force last year was just under 51 per cent; for men it was 68.5 per cent. Clearly, we have some ways to go yet in creating a society that is as balanced in terms of careers as it is in educational opportunities.

As Chief Executive, I can assure you that creating a level playing field for women in business is a high priority for my Government. That's why I proposed in my Policy Address last October a number of pro-women measures. These measures include expanding maternity leave from 10 weeks to 14 weeks, with the extra four weeks in maternity leave pay to be borne in full by the Government. We plan to introduce the amended legislation in the Legislative Council before the end of this year.

We are also working on a variety of measures to enhance child-care services so as to enable women with young children to take up or stay in employment. We will provide more facilities for breastfeeding, and legislative amendments to prohibit discrimination against breastfeeding have been introduced to the Legislative Council. We will introduce in the coming school year free cervical cancer vaccination for school girls of particular age groups. We will also continue our efforts to raise the proportion of

female members in statutory bodies and advisory committees, so that women's voices will be heard in policy making. By the way, our Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, which runs the very important stock market in Hong Kong, is now having its first-ever Chairlady, Mrs Laura Cha. We will together call on all listed companies to appoint more females as their board members.

In short, we will create every opportunity we can for the women of Hong Kong. Equal opportunity, whether in work, education or any other sphere of society, is essential to creating a caring and inclusive community. And in enabling the ambitions of women – whether in Hong Kong, in Bangladesh or any other country or economy – we can ensure a thriving future for us all.

The A UW is helping to realise that future. Since opening in 2008, A UW has graduated more than 800 students, including 100 who proudly received their degrees one month ago. Some 20 per cent of them will go on to graduate school at prestigious institutions all over the world. And when classes begin again in August, A UW will be home to some 950 women from 17 countries. And 90 per cent of those students will be there at the A UW campus in Chittagong, Bangladesh, on a full scholarship – thanks to you. Thanks to your understanding, your generosity, your unshakable determination to be a force for social change. That's a formidable force for good.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to support A UW for its wonderful mission.

Thank you.



[Appeal for information on missing man in Tin Sum \(with photo\)](#)

Police today (June 11) appealed to the public for information on a man who went missing in Tin Sum.

Yu Hoi-man, aged 44, went missing after he left a hostel in Chun Shek

Estate on June 7 morning. Staff of the hostel made a report to Police yesterday (June 10).

He is about 1.65 metres tall, 68 kilograms in weight and of fat build. He has a round face with yellow complexion and short black hair. He was last seen wearing a pair of black-rimmed glasses, a black short-sleeved T-shirt, black shorts and black shoes.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing man or may have seen him is urged to contact the Regional Missing Person Unit of New Territories South on 3661 1174 or 6025 6218 or email to rmpu-nts-2@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.

