

## **Award Scheme for Learning Experiences under Qualifications Framework opens for applications**

The 2019-20 Award Scheme for Learning Experiences (Award Scheme) under the Qualifications Framework (QF) will be open for applications from today (March 15) until May 24. Practitioners from 23 industries implementing the QF (see Annex) are welcome to apply.

The Award Scheme aims to encourage outstanding or emerging practitioners to engage in learning activities held locally or around the world with a view to broadening their horizons and keeping abreast of the latest developments of the industry. Through participating in the learning activities, practitioners can get acquainted and establish a rapport with local and overseas counterparts.

A spokesman for the Education Bureau said that the Award Scheme was launched in 2013-14. In the past six years, the Award Scheme attracted more than 1,100 applicants from different industries, of which over 350 received awards. Over 60 per cent of the awardees participated in overseas learning activities, while the remaining 30 per cent-plus were engaged in local learning activities. The Award Scheme not only afforded practitioners opportunities to broaden their horizons and extend networks, it also helped reinforce their belief in lifelong learning. Through the pursuit of continuous learning, they are able to upgrade themselves, become role models for their respective industries and help promote the QF.

"The learning activities in which practitioners can participate under the Award Scheme include competitions, seminars, sharing sessions, exhibitions and study tours. Awardees engaging in local learning activities will receive an award of \$10,000, while those engaging in learning activities outside Hong Kong will receive an award of \$30,000," the spokesman said. Applicants may visit the website [www.hkqf.gov.hk/AwardScheme](http://www.hkqf.gov.hk/AwardScheme) for details of the Award Scheme.

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## **Broadcasting and Telecommunications Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019 gazetted**

The Broadcasting and Telecommunications Legislation (Amendment) Bill

2019 was gazetted today (March 15). It amends the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap. 562) (BO) and the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106) (TO) to implement the measures proposed in the Review of Television and Sound Broadcasting Regulatory Framework to further promote development of the local broadcasting industry.

The key areas of the Bill are as follows.

#### 1. Cross-media ownership restrictions

To remove obsolete categories including "non-domestic TV licensee", "other licensable TV licensee", "advertising agency" and "proprietor of a local newspaper" from the definition of "disqualified persons" (DPs) under the BO, and "advertising agent", "person who in the course of business supplies material for broadcasting by a sound broadcasting licensee" and "person who in the course of business transmits sound or TV material, whether in or outside Hong Kong" from the definition of DPs under Part 3A of the TO, and to confine the scope of "relative" under the definition of "associate" to immediate family members.

#### 2. Foreign control restrictions

To maintain the existing foreign control restrictions embodied in the BO and Part 3A of the TO. Only minor refinements to the threshold percentages of shareholding in free TV licensee by an unqualified voting controller that are subject to prior approval of the Communications Authority from the existing "2%, 6%, 10% and above", to "5%, 10%, 15% and above" are proposed.

#### 3. Requirement of a licensee being a non-subsidiary company

To remove the existing requirement that a free TV or sound broadcasting licence must not be granted to a company which is a subsidiary of a corporation.

The Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council for First and Second Readings on March 27.

A three-month public consultation on the measures proposed in the Review of Television and Sound Broadcasting Regulatory Framework was completed in May 2018. Stakeholders in general supported the direction of the legislative proposals to relax obsolete statutory requirements and rationalise the regulatory arrangements, so as to facilitate innovation of and investment in the traditional broadcasting industry.

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# Appointments to Hospital Authority

The Government announced today (March 15) the reappointment of four serving members and the appointment of two new members to the Hospital Authority (HA).

Among the four serving members reappointed, Mr David Fong Man-hung and Mr Franklin Lam Fan-keung are reappointed for two years, with effect from April 1, 2019. Professor Gabriel Matthew Leung and Mr Charlie Yip Wing-tong are reappointed for two years, with effect from August 1, 2019.

The new members are Mr Philip Tsai Wing-chung and Professor Chan Wai-ye. They will serve for a term of two years with effect from April 1, 2019.

Mr Philip Tsai Wing-chung is the Chairman of Deloitte China. Currently, he is also the Chairman of M Plus Collections Ltd, a subsidiary company under the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority; Deputy Chairman of the Hong Kong Red Cross; and a member of the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Advisory Committee, the Standing Committee on Disciplined Services Salaries and Conditions of Service and the Supplementary Medical Professions Council.

Professor Chan Wai-ye is Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), the Master of CW Chu College and the Chair Professor and Acting Director of the School of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, CUHK. He is an expert in molecular and biochemical genetics, genomics, developmental genomics, epigenetics, epigenomics, stem cell biology and bioinformatics.

The Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, welcomed the two new members to the HA. She also thanked the outgoing members, Dr Kam Pok-man and Professor Raymond Liang Hin-suen, for their contribution and advice to the HA over the years.

The HA comprises a Chairman, 23 non-official members, three public officers and one principal officer from the HA. The membership list with effect from April 1, 2019 is as follows:

Chairman:

Professor John Leong Chi-yan

Non-official Members:

Professor Francis Chan Ka-leung

Professor Chan Wai-ye

Ms Anita Cheng Wai-ching

Mr Henry Fan Hung-ling

Mr David Fong Man-hung

Mr Andrew Fung Hau-chung

Mr Ambrose Ho Pui-him

Mrs Ann Kung Yeung Yun-chi

Mr Daniel Lam Chun

Mr Quinton Lam Chun-ki

Mr Franklin Lam Fan-keung  
Professor Wallace Lau Chak-sing  
Ms Lisa Lau Man-man  
Mr Stephen Lee Hoi-yin  
Professor Gabriel Matthew Leung  
Dr Lo Wai-kwok  
Professor David Shum Ho-keung  
Mr Ivan Sze Wing-hang  
Professor Agnes Tiwari Fung-yee  
Mr Philip Tsai Wing-chung  
Ms Priscilla Wong Pui-sze  
Mr Jason Yeung Chi-wai  
Mr Charlie Yip Wing-tong

Public Officers:

Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Health), Ms Elizabeth Tse  
Director of Health, Dr Constance Chan  
Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury), Ms Carol Yuen

HA Principal Officer:

HA Chief Executive, Dr Leung Pak-yin

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## **Polling date for 2019 District Council Ordinary Election published**

A government spokesman said today (March 15) that the sixth District Council Ordinary Election will be held on November 24, 2019.

The date for holding the sixth District Council Ordinary Election was specified by the Chief Executive in accordance with section 27 of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547). The date was published in the Gazette today.

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## **Key statistics on service demand of A&E Departments and occupancy rates in**

## public hospitals

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

During the winter surge, the Hospital Authority is closely monitoring the service demand of Accident and Emergency Departments and the occupancy rate in public hospitals. Key service statistics are being issued daily for public information. Details are in the appended table.