

CEDB and SASAC hold "Belt and Road: Hong Kong – IN" Sharing Session on Risk Management (with photos)

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) and the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council (SASAC) jointly held the "Belt and Road: Hong Kong – IN" Sharing Session on Risk Management today (February 25).

Around 220 participants comprising representatives from 10 state-owned enterprises (SoEs), local enterprises and professionals in insurance, account and consulting services, surveying, valuation and relevant consulting services, finance and investment, telecommunications technologies, engineering, construction and real estate development and manufacturing had in-depth exchanges and interactive discussions on the risks associated with investing in and operating Belt and Road projects, as well as on how Hong Kong's financing and professional services platforms could play a useful role in managing such risks. A business matching session was also featured. The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, and the Deputy Director-General of the Bureau of International Cooperation of the SASAC, Madam Zhang Jihui, spoke at the opening session of the event.

Mr Yau said Hong Kong enjoys a multitude of advantages, especially in the professional services sectors. Hong Kong has a rich pool of internationally recognised talents with abundant experience in project financing and fundraising, legal services, dispute resolution, accounting, insurance, business consultancy, risk assessment and management, construction, architecture, transport and more. These professionals stand ready to offer world-class risk assessment, consultancy and management services to enterprises in mitigating risks associated in Belt and Road development.

Mr Yau encouraged enterprises to make more use of Hong Kong's professional services platform to "go global". The Government is committed to promoting partnership between the professional services sector and enterprises, including initiating the Belt and Road Cross-Professional Advancement Programme, which is undertaken by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) with funding support from the Government's Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme. The Programme seeks to promote cross-profession collaboration with a view to better equipping Hong Kong professionals in meeting the challenges and grasping the opportunities brought about by the Belt and Road Initiative.

In addition, the Government has been actively promoting overseas the unique strengths of Hong Kong. In collaboration with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the Government has been organising business and professional missions, comprising representatives from the business and

professional services sector, young entrepreneurs and start-ups to visit Belt and Road related countries and regions to look for new business opportunities.

The 10 SoEs joining the sharing session today were China National Petroleum Corporation, China Petrochemical Corporation, China National Offshore Oil Corporation, State Grid Corporation of China, China Guodian Capital Holdings Limited of the China Energy Investment Corporation, China COSCO Shipping Corporation Limited, COFCO Capital Investment Company Limited of the China National Cereals, Oils & Foodstuffs Corporation, China National Travel Service Group Corporation Limited, China General Nuclear Power Corporation, and China Merchants Group Ltd. Hong Kong enterprises and representatives of professional services associations joining the discussion panels included the Chairman of the Asian Academy of International Law and former Chairman of the Securities and Futures Commission, Dr Anthony Neoh; representative of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants Ms Loletta Chow; the Executive Director of the Marga Group (Myanmar), Mr Eliott Suen; and former Chairman of the Association of Consulting Engineers of Hong Kong Mr Ian Chung. The Director of Chinese Mainland Affairs of PolyU, Dr Laura Lo, took the opportunity to introduce the Belt and Road Cross-Professional Advancement Programme to the participants.

Following the sharing session on the investment environment of overseas Economic and Trade Cooperation Zones jointly held by the CEDB and the SASAC in August last year, today's sharing session presented another exchange opportunity for SoEs, Hong Kong enterprises and professional services sectors. The CEDB and the SASAC will continue to collaborate in promoting partnership and business matching for enterprises and professionals.





[Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected smuggled dried seafood and endangered species \(with photo\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (February 24) seized a batch of suspected smuggled dried seafood, including about 12 kilograms of dried abalone, 12.4kg of dried sea cucumber, 12.2kg of dried fish maw and 537 grams of bird nest, as well as a batch of suspected endangered species including 1.5kg of suspected ginseng and 315g of suspected manta ray gills at Lok Ma Chau Control Point, with a total estimated market value of about \$240,000.

Customs officers intercepted an outgoing private car at Lok Ma Chau Control Point yesterday afternoon and seized the batch of suspected smuggled dried seafood and endangered species inside the vehicle compartment. The 53-year-old male driver was arrested.

Investigation is ongoing.

Smuggling is a serious offence. Under the Import and Export Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting unmanifested cargo is liable to a maximum fine of \$2 million and imprisonment for seven years.

Under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting an endangered species without a licence is liable to a maximum fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years.

Members of the public may report any suspected smuggling activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



Secretary for Justice visits SPC and MFA

The Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC, visited the Supreme People's Court and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing today (February 25).

Ms Cheng met with Vice-presidents of the Supreme People's Court, Mr Luo Dongchuan and Mr Yang Wanming, respectively in the morning. She then met with the Director-General of the Department of Treaty and Law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Xu Hong, in the afternoon. Matters relating to dispute resolution services in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road related regions were discussed during the meetings.

Ms Cheng will return to Hong Kong tomorrow morning (February 26).

Financial Secretary to outline 2019-20 Budget

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

The Legislative Council (LegCo) will hold a meeting on Wednesday (February 27) at 11am in the Chamber of the LegCo Complex. The Government has advised the Clerk to LegCo that the Financial Secretary intends to present the Appropriation Bill 2019 and the Estimates for the year ending 31 March 2020 to the Council. When moving the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill

2019, the Financial Secretary will outline the 2019-20 Budget.

During the meeting, Members will also ask the Government 22 questions on various policy areas, all of which require written replies.

The agenda of the above meeting can be obtained via the LegCo Website (www.legco.gov.hk). Please note that the agenda is subject to change, and the latest information about the agenda could be found on the LegCo Website.

Members of the public are welcome to observe the proceedings of the meeting from the public galleries of the Chamber of the LegCo Complex. They may reserve seats by calling 3919 3399 during office hours. Members of the public can also watch or listen to the meeting via the "Webcast" system on the LegCo Website.

Speech by CS at launch ceremony for Future-Ready Talent Incubation Programme (English only) (with photos/video)

Following is the speech by the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, at the launch ceremony for the Future-Ready Talent Incubation Programme today (February 25):

Dr Roy Chung (Chairman of Vocational Training Council), Mr Filippo Gori (Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Asia Pacific of JP Morgan), Carrie (Executive Director of the Vocational Training Council, Mrs Carrie Yau), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honour to join you all today to witness the launch of the Future-Ready Talent Incubation Programme, a very meaningful ceremony.

I am most delighted to note that the inauguration of this important Programme has gathered together some of the most prominent experts from the innovation-driven and smart city technology industries, trade associations and renowned innovation and technology institutions in Hong Kong, who will share with us in just a moment their valuable experience and astute insights in nurturing talents for the development of a smart city.

The Future-ready Talent Incubation Program is a three-year pilot upskilling programme sponsored by the JP Morgan Chase Foundation for Higher Diploma students of the Vocational Training Council (VTC). It aims to address the manpower needs across the entire value chain of vocational and

professional education and training (VPET) in targeted career streams. These career streams, including data analytics and artificial intelligence, IT security, cloud computing, smart/intelligence application, immersive and digital media technologies, and financial technology, are innovation-driven and smart city technology-related, thereby meeting the new skills and IT competence demanded by industries of different sectors. I am most pleased to note that the donation from the Foundation, amounting to HK\$11.7 million, is the largest grant given by the JP Morgan Chase Foundation ever in Hong Kong and one of the largest grants in Asia Pacific.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government is committed to developing Hong Kong into a smart city with a view to raising the quality of life of the community. We published the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong in December 2017, which sets out more than 70 initiatives including the three smart city infrastructure projects, namely, the eID, the pilot Multi-functional Smart Lampposts Scheme, and the Next Generation Government Cloud and Big Data Analytics Platform. We will invest over HK\$900 million to propel these three projects forward.

Indeed, over the past three years since the establishment of the Innovation and Technology Bureau, the Government has invested over HK\$100 billion into innovation and technology to propel Hong Kong's smart city development forward.

For all these initiatives to come to fruition, it is of paramount importance that our manpower development efforts can keep up with the growing demand for top talents. The HKSAR Government accords high priority to education through heavy investment in education manpower, funding schemes and hardware improvement. In the 2018-19 financial year, the estimated total recurrent expenditure on education amounts to HK\$84.6 billion, which accounts for about 21 per cent of the Government's total recurrent expenditure and takes up the lion share among all policy areas.

Above all, we see Vocational and Professional Education and Training, or VPET in short, as an indispensable player in maintaining a versatile talent pool for the sustainable social and economic development of Hong Kong, and in keeping us ahead of other economies in the smart city development. VPET focuses not only on technical education and practical training, but also whole person development, skills development and international exposure. It seeks to equip students with the capabilities to rise to challenges in pursuit of their goals and to live up to the expectation of becoming young leaders in their chosen fields.

To create the best possible learning environment for VPET students and pave the way for their future career development, the VTC has launched a number of flagship projects over the years. The HKSAR Government will continue to support the Council's efforts including providing VPET students with state-of-the-art learning facilities, such as the plan for a new multi-disciplinary campus in Cha Kwo Ling that features world-class hardware that is made-to-measure for the purposes of manpower development. We have also introduced the "Earn and Learn" schemes to provide paid workplace attachments

for VPET students in industries which require specialised skills to allow them to apply the knowledge learned and help them gain real life experience while receiving a reasonable monthly subsidy.

Ladies and gentlemen, we need support from all sectors across the community to shape our young people to become smart city dwellers. The generous support from the JP Morgan Chase Foundation to make this meaningful programme possible is indeed a shining example of corporate social responsibility. I would like to extend once again my warmest appreciation to JP Morgan Chase Foundation. I would also like to thank the Vocational Training Council for their tireless efforts in nurturing our future generations. No less important, I wish the Future-Ready Talent Incubation Programme a resounding success and every one of you a fruitful discussion today.

Thank you.

