

STH to lead logistics and maritime delegation to Guangxi

The Secretary for Transport and Housing and Chairman of the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council (LOGSCOUNCIL) and the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board (HKMPB), Mr Frank Chan Fan, will lead a logistics and maritime delegation to Guangxi on Saturday afternoon (January 26) to promote Hong Kong as a premier regional logistics hub and an international maritime centre.

During the visit, Mr Chan will call on the Chairman of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Mr Chen Wu. Mr Chan and the delegation will also visit port and logistics facilities in Guangxi, including the Qinzhou Port and the Guangxi ASEAN Commerce and Trade City, and will meet with the representatives of the Beibu Gulf International Port Group Company Limited, to learn about the latest logistics and maritime developments in Guangxi.

They will attend a luncheon seminar co-organised by the LOGSCOUNCIL, the HKMPB and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and introduce Hong Kong's strengths in logistics and maritime services to the Guangxi business community. Mr Chan will deliver a speech in the seminar.

Mr Chan will return to Hong Kong on Monday night (January 28). During his absence, the Under Secretary for Transport and Housing, Dr Raymond So Wai-man, will be the Acting Secretary for Transport and Housing.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Thursday, January 24, 2019 is 103.9 (up 0.1 against yesterday's index).

Special arrangement for child care centres

In view of the present influenza situation, the Government announced today (January 24) that all kindergartens, kindergarten-cum-child care centres and special child care centres will start their Chinese New Year holidays on January 26 to help prevent the spread of influenza.

To minimise the chance of infection, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) advises members of the public not to take their children or family members to child care centres and special child care centres. However, these centres will remain open to serve members of the public who might have difficulty in taking care of their children or family members.

In addition, parents may make use of the services provided under the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project where necessary. For enquiries, please call the SWD hotline at 2343 2255.

Chinese New Year holidays for kindergartens and kindergarten-cum-child care centres brought forward

The Government announced today (January 24) that all kindergartens and kindergarten-cum-child care centres will start their Chinese New Year holidays early on Saturday (January 26) and will remain on holiday until the end of their originally scheduled Chinese New Year holidays.

The Education Bureau (EDB) has issued letters to schools to explain the measures and arrangements that should be in place during the holidays, including those relating to activities within and outside the schools, lunch arrangements and school bus services.

During the non-scheduled period of school holidays, schools should remain open. If necessary, students can go to school as usual. Schools should arrange for staff to be on duty to handle school affairs and parents' enquiries, and to look after any students who may arrive at school. Schools should clean their premises thoroughly to ensure environmental hygiene.

Parents should take measures to prevent influenza and pay attention to the health conditions of their children. Students should avoid visiting crowded places with poor ventilation. They should build up good body immunity by having a balanced diet, regular exercise and adequate rest.

The EDB will continue to keep close contact with the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health and provide support to schools when necessary.

LegCo Public Accounts Committee to hold public hearing tomorrow

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

The Legislative Council (LegCo) Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will hold a public hearing on "Centre for Food Safety: Import control of foods" (Chapter 2) of the Director of Audit's Report No.71 at 9am tomorrow (January 25) in Conference Room 2 of the LegCo Complex.

Six witnesses have been invited to appear before the above hearing to respond to points raised in the Report and answer questions asked by PAC members.

The programme for the public hearing is as follows:

Date: January 25 (Friday)

Time: 9am

Venue: Conference Room 2

Subject: Centre for Food Safety: Import control of foods (Chapter 2 of the Director of Audit's Report No.71)

Witnesses:

Mr Eugene Fung

Deputy Secretary for Food and Health (Food)2

Miss Vivian Lau

Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Dr Ho Yuk-yin

Controller, Centre for Food Safety

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Dr Christine Wong

Assistant Director (Risk Management)

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Ms Louise Ho

Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Ms Sandra Tam

Head of Land Boundary Command

Customs and Excise Department

PAC is chaired by Mr Abraham Shek, and its Deputy Chairman is Mr Kenneth Leung. Other members include Mr Paul Tse, Mr Steven Ho, Mr Lam Cheuk-ting, Mr Shiu Ka-fai and Ms Tanya Chan.