

“Legends of Lion Dance” exhibition showcases Hong Kong’s cultural heritage, traditional crafts and Cantonese opera in Belgium (with photos)

Riding on the success of its first two editions held in 2017 and 2018, the "Legends of Lion Dance" exhibition has returned to the port city of Antwerp in Belgium. It is being held at the city's main public library, Bibliotheek Permeke, from January 18 until February 10 to showcase Hong Kong's cultural heritage, traditional crafts and Cantonese opera to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

With the support of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Brussels (HKETO, Brussels) and the Belgium-Hong Kong Society, Asian Events Tofoe , a non-profit-making organisation established by Hong Kong second-generation community members in Antwerp, is presenting 12 unique lion heads made and embroidered in Hong Kong.

Visitors can learn how lion heads are made, the meaning of the lion dance, the traditions of Chinese New Year and their importance in Hong Kong culture. They can also discover the meaning of the Chinese horoscope. Moreover, on the occasion of the opening of the Xiqu Centre in the West Kowloon Cultural District of Hong Kong, this year’s exhibition also introduces visitors to the Cantonese Opera with some Cantonese Opera costumes from Hong Kong being displayed in the exhibition.

Assistant Representative of the HKETO, Brussels, Mr Jeffrey Chim and two Aldermen of the City of Antwerp, Alderman for Sports, Diamonds, and Markets, Mr Ludo van Campenhout, and Alderman for Finance, Mobility, City Parks, Retailers and Decentralisation, Mr Koen Kennis, officiated at the opening reception on January 18, which featured an expertly-performed lion dance attended by over 80 guests.

Speaking at the opening reception, Mr Chim said that the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has spared no effort in creating an environment conducive to arts and cultural development as well as promoting Hong Kong's strengths in arts and culture. The much-anticipated West Kowloon Cultural District is now taking shape and will be developed into a world-class integrated arts, cultural and entertainment area befitting Hong Kong's status as an international arts and cultural metropolis. The Xiqu Centre, the first major performing arts venue in the Cultural District, would officially open two days later on January 20.

"The Xiqu Centre makes the Cantonese opera, which has been added to the UNESCO representative list of intangible cultural heritage, accessible to the

audiences from around the world and helps develop a locally rooted Cantonese opera network that has a regional impact with an important role in the international arts and culture development," Mr Chim said.

"I am particular glad that today's exhibition shares the same vision of promoting Hong Kong's rich cultural heritage to the Western audiences and allows them to learn more about the dynamic scenes of Hong Kong in different facades," Mr Chim added.

Antwerp has the largest community of Hong Kong emigrants in Belgium and the event is also an opportunity for the second generation of Hong Kong emigrants to learn more about Hong Kong's cultural heritage, to strengthen their bonds with their family's city of origin and to encourage them to develop their career in Hong Kong.

The "Legends of Lion Dance" exhibition is being held until 10 February 2019 at Bibliotheek Permeke in Antwerp. It is open seven days a week and entry is free of charge.



Traffic condition on first working day after stage 1 commissioning of Central-Wan Chai Bypass

The Transport Department (TD) said today (January 21) that the Emergency Transport Coordination Centre (ETCC) of the TD has been closely monitoring the traffic condition during the first working day after the stage 1 commissioning of the Central-Wan Chai Bypass (CWB). The traffic on Hong Kong Island today is generally normal and the traffic condition during peak hours is similar as before.

For the eastbound traffic, since the down ramp of Rumsey Street Flyover has been closed, motorists using the Rumsey Street Flyover can follow the middle and slow lanes along Man Po Street to go to Central. The TD noticed that during the peak hours this morning, some motorists may not be familiar with the new routes and mainly used the slow lane of Man Po Street to go to Central, resulting in vehicles moving at slow speed. The TD has immediately reminded motorists via the Variable Message Signs that they can use the middle lane of Man Po Street to go to Central. Improvement works for the traffic signs and road markings will be conducted tonight for completion tomorrow morning.

As for the westbound traffic, during the stage 1 commissioning of the CWB, the link road connecting the CWB and Rumsey Street Flyover westbound is still under construction. As we have anticipated earlier, the traffic on Harcourt Road, Connaught Road Central and in the vicinity of the Central Tunnel Portal of the CWB was relatively busy this afternoon. In addition, there was an incident of vehicle breakdown and traffic was getting busy in the evening, resulting in traffic congestion. The Police had already conducted traffic management on site and adjusted traffic light signals to divert the traffic.

Moreover, the TD will continue to closely monitor and examine the road condition of individual road sections in order to implement appropriate enhancement measures, such as adjusting traffic light signals and adding traffic signs and road markings.

For public transport services, four bus routes using the CWB have commenced service today and they are in normal operation. The TD has requested the bus companies to remind bus captains to pay attention to the traffic signs and road markings on the CWB and roads in its vicinity.

The TD anticipates that traffic will be relatively busy in the vicinity of the Central Tunnel Portal and Connaught Road Central during the morning and evening hours at the stage 1 commissioning of the CWB. Motorists are advised to plan their journey in advance and allow more travelling time. Motorists are also advised to use original routes such as Gloucester Road, Harcourt Road and Connaught Road Central to travel to the Central and Western

District during peak hours. For eastbound traffic, apart from using the Connaught Road Central Flyover and Man Po Street to travel to Admiralty, the Mid-Levels, Wan Chai South and Causeway Bay, motorists can also use the at-grade roads including Connaught Road Central and Man Kat Street to go to the aforementioned locations during peak hours.

The TD's ETCC, the Highways Department, the Police and public transport operators will continue to closely monitor the traffic condition and implement contingency measures when necessary to ensure smooth traffic and normal operation of public transport services, as well as disseminate the latest traffic news to the public through TD's "HKeMobility" mobile application and the media. The Police will deploy additional manpower in the vicinity of the Central Tunnel Portal of the CWB to strengthen the traffic management.

Imported milk sample detected with total bacterial count exceeding legal limit

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (January 21) that a sample of bottled pasteurised milk imported from the United Kingdom was detected with total bacterial count exceeding the legal limit. The concerned batch of the product has not entered the market. The CFS is following up on the incident.

Product details are as follows:

Product name: English Whole Milk
Product brand: Marks & Spencer
Place of origin: United Kingdom
Importer: ALF Retail Hong Kong Limited
Packing: 1.136 litre per bottle
Use-by date: January 16, 2019

A spokesman for the CFS said, "The CFS collected the abovementioned sample for testing at import level under its routine Food Surveillance Programme. The test result showed that the total bacterial count of the sample was 75 000 per millilitre. According to the Milk Regulation (Cap 132 AQ), milk after heat treatment by means of pasteurisation should not contain more than 30 000 bacteria per millilitre.

"The CFS has informed the importer concerned of the irregularity. Investigation revealed that the affected batch of product is still stored in the importer's warehouse and has not entered the local market. The affected product has been marked and sealed by CFS. The CFS has temporarily suspended

the permission to import for sale of the product concerned granted earlier to the importer. Other types of milk product of the same brand being sold in the market are not affected. "

The spokesman said that the total bacterial counts exceeding the legal limit indicated that the hygienic conditions were unsatisfactory, but did not mean it would lead to food poisoning.

The CFS has informed the British authorities of the incident, and will continue to follow up on the case and take appropriate action.

[HKETO, Brussels says Hong Kong can help Italian entrepreneurs to connect and excel in Asia \(with photos\)](#)

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Brussels (HKETO, Brussels) co-hosted a business seminar in Milan, Italy on January 17, as part of its continuing efforts to reach out to Italian entrepreneurs and promote Hong Kong as the gateway to Mainland China and the best place to tap business opportunities arising from the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Greater Bay Area) development.

Entitled "Hong Kong Engine of Asian Economy: Opportunities for Exports and Innovation for Italian Companies", the seminar was co-organised by HKETO, Brussels and Invest Hong Kong (IHK), with the support of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Italian Association of Foreign Trade.

The Deputy Representative of the HKETO, Brussels, Miss Fiona Chau, told Italian entrepreneurs that Hong Kong's unparalleled knowledge of the Mainland market and its deep economic connections with the Mainland, Asia and the rest of the world continue to make Hong Kong their best business partner.

Emphasising the Government's theme of "connect and excel", Miss Chau said that connecting with Hong Kong can help people and businesses succeed in Asia. She told the participants about Hong Kong's major investment in mega infrastructure projects including the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the airport's three-runway system, which aim to greatly enhance Hong Kong's connectivity with the Greater Bay Area, the Mainland and the world.

The seminar was followed by a cocktail reception co-hosted by the HKETO, Brussels and IHK in co-operation with Copernico, an Italian start-up development and acceleration platform. At the reception, Miss Chau highlighted that Hong Kong is well-known for its simple tax regime and low

tax rate, with the latest reports by PricewaterhouseCoopers and the World Bank finding that Hong Kong has the most business-friendly tax system in the world. She added that Hong Kong continues to be a unique place to "connect and excel" in business and in life. Hong Kong welcomes talents from around the world to live, develop careers and contribute to Hong Kong society, she said.

Other speakers at the seminar and the cocktail reception included the Director-General of Investment Promotion of the IHK, Mr Stephen Phillips.

During her visit to Milan, Miss Chau also met with the President of the Lombardy Regional Government, Mr Attilio Fontana, and the regional Minister of Finance, Mr Davide Carlo Caparini, and updated them on the latest developments in Hong Kong. She also met with representatives of the Italian Association of Industrial Design and researchers of the Italian think-tank, Italian Institute for International Political Studies.



[LegCo to debate motion on implementing](#)

the Toll Adjustment Proposal

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

The Legislative Council (LegCo) will hold a meeting on Wednesday (January 23) at 11am in the Chamber of the LegCo Complex. During the meeting, Members will debate a motion on implementing the Toll Adjustment Proposal.

The motion, moved by the Secretary for Transport and Housing, states: "Regarding the Government's proposal to adjust the tolls of private cars, taxis and motorcycles for using the three road harbour crossings with effect from January 1, 2020 (Toll Adjustment Proposal) with a view to rationalising cross-harbour traffic which will bring about benefits to society as a whole, with expected benefits including alleviating cross-harbour traffic congestion, reducing the obstruction of non-cross-harbour traffic by cross-harbour traffic queues, saving the commuting time for citizens using public transport and reducing emission from vehicles, etc., this Council supports the Government to introduce into this Council legislative amendments relating to the Cross-Harbour Tunnel and Eastern Harbour Crossing for the implementation of the Toll Adjustment Proposal, and to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee for the Western Harbour Crossing Toll Compensation Scheme."

Mr Luk Chung-hung, Mr Jeremy Tam, Mr Gary Fan, Mr Chan Han-pan, Mr Au Nok-hin and Mr Ma Fung-kwok will move separate amendments to the Secretary for Transport and Housing's motion.

On Members' motions, Mr Dennis Kwok will move a motion under Article 73(5) and (10) of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. The motion states: "That, pursuant to Article 73(5) and (10) of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, this Council summons the Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC, to attend before the Council at its earliest meeting after the passage of this motion to produce all relevant papers, books, records or documents and to testify or give evidence on her handling of the case of alleged corruption and/or alleged misconduct in public office of former Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Mr Leung Chun-ying, her failure to comply with the Department of Justice's briefing out policy to seek legal advice from Queen's Counsel and/or Senior Counsel on the case, and her decision of not prosecuting Mr Leung Chun-ying, and relevant matters."

Dr Fernando Cheung will move a motion on enacting legislation to protect the rights and interests of rare disease patients. The motion states: "That quite a number of countries have laid down definitions, enacted legislation and formulated evidence-based and regularized long-term policies on rare diseases as early as the 1980s, making it more convenient for rare disease patients to apply for approval of drugs, subsidy, and so on, and enabling them to receive more efficient and more proper treatment and care; and the United States, member states of the European Union and the neighbouring

countries and regions of Hong Kong, such as Singapore, Japan, Australia, Taiwan and Korea have long laid down definitions of rare diseases, formulated support policies, established a database of rare disease cases, etc.; however, the Hong Kong Government has yet to lay down any definition and formulate any concrete policy on rare diseases to provide support for rare disease patients; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to enact legislation on rare diseases, in order to protect and promote the rights of rare disease patients and enable them to receive proper diagnosis, treatment and care, thereby fulfilling the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the relevant contents include:

(1) establishing a policy committee on rare diseases to advise on a strategic development direction for a policy on rare diseases, monitor the implementation of the policy on rare diseases by government departments and statutory bodies, report on the implementation of the policy on rare diseases, etc.;

(2) establishing an evaluative committee on rare diseases to evaluate whether a disease meets the definition of rare diseases;

(3) defining a disease which affects no more than 1 in 10 000 individuals in Hong Kong and is clinically definable as a rare disease;

(4) introducing a registration system for rare disease drugs whereby rare disease patients, medical practitioners and pharmaceutical companies can apply for the inclusion of new drugs in the list of drugs for rare diseases;

(5) introducing a subsidy system to ensure that rare disease patients will receive safe, quality, effective and affordable drugs and treatment, instead of laying emphasis only on cost-effectiveness; and

(6) introducing a rare disease information system which contains a list of rare diseases and their prevalence rates, the demographic information of patients and usage statistics of rare disease drugs."

Professor Joseph Lee and Dr Elizabeth Quat will move separate amendments to Dr Fernando Cheung's motion.

Mr Tony Tse will move a motion on creating opportunities to assist small and medium enterprises and promoting upward mobility of young people. The motion states: "That this Council urges the Government to create opportunities to assist small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and promote upward mobility of young people; specific measures are as follows:

(1) reforming the procurement and tendering systems of the Government and public organisations, including attaching more importance to creative designs and innovative technology in evaluation, rather than only putting emphasis on the 'lowest bid wins' principle and imposing unnecessary requirements on the experience, qualifications and capital of tenderers; and splitting projects and service contracts as appropriate to avoid unnecessary bundled tender of

multiple contracts, thereby reducing the monopoly by large enterprises and multinational groups, increasing local SMEs', start-up enterprises' and young professionals' chances of tendering and success in bidding;

(2) actively assisting local SMEs and young people to develop markets and seize the opportunities presented by the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Greater Bay Area), including setting up more offices in the Greater Bay Area to facilitate the provision of more support to SMEs and young people who wish to seek development on the Mainland, and at the same time striving with the Mainland for more tax concessions and facilitating measures;

(3) holding architectural design competitions for suitable small and medium public works projects and allowing winners to participate in the projects, and providing unsuccessful entrants whose works have reached a certain standard with reasonable design fees as encouragement;

(4) raising the subsidy ceiling for the Continuing Education Fund and expanding the funding scope, and providing SMEs with staff training allowance to promote concurrent improvement of enterprises and staff;

(5) providing young people with aspirations for starting their own business with free or low-rent shared offices on a time limited basis, and offering one-stop start-up support services; and

(6) building a home ownership ladder with clearly defined levels to assist young families and young professionals with repayment ability yet unable to afford the high rate of down payment in acquiring their first property, thereby helping them to move upward."

Mr Wu Chi-wai, Dr Lo Wai-ki, Mr Charles Mok, Dr Kwok Ka-ki, Mr Luk Chung-hung, Mr Paul Tse and Dr Chiang Lai-wan will move separate amendments to Mr Tony Tse's motion.

Meanwhile, Ms Starry Lee will move a motion under Rule 49E(2) of the Rules of Procedure. The motion states: "That this Council takes note of Report No. 9/18-19 of the House Committee laid on the Table of the Council on January 23, 2019 in relation to the Fugitive Offenders (France) Order."

On Government Bills, the National Anthem Bill will be introduced into the Council for the First Reading and the Second Reading. The Second Reading debate on the Bill will be adjourned.

The Second Reading debate on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources Bill will resume. If the Bill is supported by Members and receives its Second Reading, it will stand committed to the committee of the whole Council. After the committee of the whole Council has completed consideration of the Bill and its report is adopted by the Council, the Bill will be set down for the Third Reading.

During the meeting, Members will also ask the Government 22 questions on

various policy areas, six of which require oral 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.