

Special traffic arrangements on Hong Kong Island

Police will implement special traffic arrangements this Saturday (September 15) to facilitate a public procession to be held on Hong Kong Island.

The following roads will be intermittently closed from 2.30pm until the crowd has dispersed and traffic resumes normal:

- Luard Road between Johnston Road and Hennessy Road;
- Westbound Hennessy Road;
- Queensway;
- Rodney Street;
- Eastbound Harcourt Road; and
- Northbound Tim Mei Avenue.

Vehicles may not be permitted to access or leave car parks along the procession route during the road closure period.

Actual implementation of the traffic arrangements will be made depending on traffic and crowd conditions in the area. Motorists are advised to exercise tolerance and patience and take heed of instructions of the Police on site.

Beijing-based LaoPu Gold showcases ancient Chinese gold craftsmanship through Hong Kong (with photo)

Beijing-based LaoPu Gold announced today (September 13) that its first Hong Kong store has recently opened, leveraging the city's international status to take its brand and the art of Chinese gold craftsmanship to the global stage.

The new shop, located at a major shopping centre in Tsim Sha Tsui, showcases a series of meticulously created handcrafted gold jewellery, including gold jewellery, precious collectables and ornaments, plus special collections dedicated for weddings and arrivals of new born babies. Its ancient Chinese gold craftsmanship sets it apart from other jewellery retailers in the city, according to its Vice General Manager, Ms Louisa Tse.

Ms Tse said that the brand has inherited the filigree and inlay

techniques, which are officially classified as part of the intangible cultural heritage of China and were originally used by the imperial courts for making jewellery and ornaments. "Our branded gold jewellery is handcrafted by grand masters, and the items are not only jewellery and art pieces with rich Chinese heritage but comparable to luxurious collectibles. Apart from developing our retail business in the region, we also endeavour to promote our heritage of gold craftsmanship to a global audience through the Hong Kong store."

She added, "Hong Kong is an international city with a high number of visitors coming from around the world either for business or leisure. It is the best location for us to promote our brand and traditional craftsmanship, and this is our first store outside of Mainland China. We also believe that a physical presence in Hong Kong can help to expand our global business."

Associate Director-General of Investment Promotion Dr Jimmy Chiang welcomed LaoPu Gold's first store in Hong Kong. He said, "Hong Kong's status as an international city has attracted many Mainland companies to set up a presence here, using the city as their springboard to 'go global'. We are happy to see that LaoPu Gold has established its foothold in Hong Kong. We believe our city is the perfect springboard for its global expansion."

About LaoPu Gold

Established in 2009, LaoPu Gold is a Chinese handcrafted gold jewellery brand that uses ancient Chinese gold craftsmanship techniques to achieve meticulous details. It has six stores in Beijing and one each in Shenzhen, Xi'an, Wuhan and Nanjing. For more information, please visit www.lphj.com.cn.

About Invest Hong Kong

Invest Hong Kong is the department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government responsible for attracting foreign direct investment and supporting overseas and Mainland businesses to set up or expand in Hong Kong. It provides free advice and customised services for overseas and Mainland companies enrolled as its clients. For more information, please visit www.investhk.gov.hk.

For an event photo, please visit www.flickr.com/photos/investhk/albums/72157699686303991.



Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Thursday, September 13, 2018 is 104.3 (down 0.4 against yesterday's index).

Shek O Beach temporarily closed

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (September 13) that Shek O Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island, is temporarily closed until further notice for maintenance of the shark prevention net. The red flag has been hoisted at the beach. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach. The red flag was hoisted earlier due to big waves.

LD invites entries for 20th Construction Industry Safety Award Scheme

Members of the construction industry are invited to enrol in the Construction Industry Safety Award Scheme 2018/2019, which was launched today (September 13) by the Labour Department (LD) together with 15 co-organisers including the Occupational Safety and Health Council, the Development Bureau, the Hong Kong Housing Authority and various organisations from the construction industry.

An LD spokesman said, "The scheme, rolled out in 1999, aims to raise the occupational safety and health (OSH) awareness of relevant stakeholders, foster a positive safety culture, encourage the adoption of safe work practices, and award contractors, site personnel and front-line workers in the construction industry for their good OSH performance.

"With the concerted efforts of stakeholders over the years, there has been notable continual improvement in the safety performance of the local construction industry in recent years. The number of industrial accidents and the accident rate per 1 000 workers in the construction industry were reduced from 14 078 and 198.4 in 1999 to 3 902 and 32.9 in 2017, representing significant drops of 72.3 per cent and 83.4 per cent respectively."

The spokesman added, "However, there's no room for complacency. We must continue to improve. The construction industry is a high-risk industry, with the accident figure being the second highest among all industries behind the food and beverage services industry. In 2017, 35.2 per cent of industrial accidents and 75.9 per cent of fatal cases occurred on construction sites, accounting for the bulk of industrial fatalities."

To keep stakeholders in the construction industry alert to work safety to further reduce the accident toll, the department has again worked with the Occupational Safety and Health Council, the Development Bureau, the Hong Kong Housing Authority, the Occupational Deafness Compensation Board, the Construction Industry Council, the Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board, the Hong Kong Housing Society, the Hong Kong Construction Association, the Hong Kong General Building Contractors Association, the Hong Kong Construction Sub-contractors Association, the Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors Limited, the Minor Works Contractor Association, the Hong Kong Association of Property Management Companies, the Hong Kong Construction Industry Employees General Union and the Federation of Hong Kong Electrical and Mechanical Industries Trade Unions to launch the scheme this year.

All construction contractors, sub-contractors and site personnel in Hong Kong are invited to compete for the awards, provided they have no records of serious or fatal accidents and have not received any suspension notices served by the LD in the 12 months preceding the enrolment deadline.

The scheme is divided into three main categories: Construction Sites, Safety Teams and Safe Workers. Entries for the Construction Sites category will be divided into eight sub-categories, namely Building Sites (Public Sector); Building Sites (Private Sector); Civil Engineering Sites; Renovation and Maintenance Works; Minor Renovation and Maintenance Works; Building Sites – Sub-contractors; Civil Engineering Sites – Sub-contractors; and Renovation and Maintenance Works – Sub-contractors.

For each of the eight sub-categories under the Construction Sites category, and the Safety Teams category, there will be a gold prize, a silver prize, a bronze prize and a meritorious prize. For the Safe Workers category, each Safe Worker will be presented with a cash coupon, a certificate and a badge.

In addition, every eligible entry in the Construction Sites category can automatically compete for the Outstanding Performance in Work-at-height Safety prize in its respective sub-category, which is to encourage contractors to take more effective safety measures for work-at-height activities, and recognise their outstanding safety performance in that area.

A new award, namely the Most Active Participating Construction Sites, has been introduced this year to engage principal contractors to encourage their sub-contractors' participation in the competition. The award will be available in three sub-categories under the Construction Sites category, namely Building Sites (Public Sector), Building Sites (Private Sector) and Civil Engineering Sites. It will be presented to the principal contractors with the highest number of sub-contractor contestants in each sub-category with good safety performance. In addition, the eligibility for the Minor Renovation and Maintenance Works sub-category has also been relaxed to encourage contractors in that sub-category to participate in the competition.

To encourage participation from the industry, certificates of good performance will be awarded to entries in each sub-category other than Minor Renovation and Maintenance Works under the Construction Sites category and the Safety Teams category which have undergone the final assessment but failed to win any prizes, provided that their performance reaches the standard set by the judging panel. For entries in the Minor Renovation and Maintenance Works sub-category similarly failing to get any prizes, cash coupons in addition to certificates of appreciation will be given to encourage participation of small and medium-sized contractors engaged in renovation and maintenance works.

The closing date for entries for the Construction Sites and Safety Teams categories is October 3. The assessment criteria will cover various aspects concerning the physical site conditions and the safety management systems. Selection of Safe Workers will be conducted when the assessment teams are performing physical site assessments. The assessment this year will focus on work at height/work above ground, scaffolding, confined space, lifting appliance and lifting operations, and electrical installation and application. The results will be announced in March next year.

Enrolment forms with entry requirements can be obtained from offices of the Occupational Safety and Health Branch of the LD (www.labour.gov.hk/eng/tele/od.htm). They can also be downloaded from the LD's website (www.labour.gov.hk). Enquiries can be made on 2852 3565.

In addition, the scheme will feature a number of promotional activities, including a safety quiz competition to enhance the OSH awareness of the industry and the public. The quiz competition is divided into Individual and Group categories. Citizens aged 15 or above and construction-related organisations are welcome to join. Enrolment will start on October 4, from which application forms can be obtained from offices of the Occupational Safety and Health Branch or downloaded from the LD's website. The deadline for enrolment is October 31.