

Sino Estates Management Limited convicted for discharging substandard wastewater at Olympian City shopping mall

â€‹Olympian City 1 in West Kowloon discharged substandard wastewater into communal sewers and thereby violated the requirements of the wastewater discharge licence. Its management company, Sino Estates Management Limited, was fined \$20,000 by Kwun Tong Magistrates' Courts today (August 23) for contravening the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO).

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Environmental Protection Department (EPD) enforcement officers conducted an inspection at Olympian City 1 last February and found that the discharge from one of the grease traps of the shopping mall was turbid. It was suspected that the grease trap was not operating properly, resulting in the discharge of substandard wastewater into communal sewers downstream. The EPD officers then collected wastewater samples for analysis and the results showed that the concentrations of oil and grease exceeded the upper limits of the wastewater discharge licence by five times. After investigation and evidence gathering, the EPD initiated prosecution against the property management company of the shopping mall, Sino Estates Management Limited, in accordance with the WPCO. The management company has taken remedial measures, including cleaning the grease trap to ensure its proper operation.

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A spokesperson for the EPD reminded property management companies and wastewater discharge licensees that they should arrange regular cleaning and maintenance of the grease traps and wastewater treatment facilities for premises under their management. They should also ensure the proper operation of these facilities and strictly adhere to the discharge standards as stipulated in the licence to prevent blockage of public sewers downstream and overflow of wastewater, which will adversely affect environmental hygiene.

Under the WPCO, anyone who discharges commercial or industrial wastewater into communal sewers not in compliance with the standard of the discharge licence commits an offence. First-time offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and six months' imprisonment.

Speech by CE at Hong Kong Scholarship

for Excellence Scheme Award

Presentation Ceremony 2018 (English

Only) (with photos)

Following is the speech by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme Award Presentation Ceremony 2018 today (August 23):

Victor (Chairman, Steering Committee of the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme, Dr Victor Fung), scholars, parents, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

As always, it is a pleasure to be here among so many who value the rewards of scholarship, whose life work is in the passionate pursuit of educational, intellectual and creative achievement at the highest levels. We come together today for the fourth consecutive year under the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme. Counting this year's award-winners, more than 360 students have been named Hong Kong Scholars since the Scheme's inception and given the priceless gift of studying at acclaimed universities all over the world. Given its resounding success, I am pleased to say that the Scheme, initially started as a pilot with time-limited funding, will become a permanent feature in the Government's effort to nurture young people starting from the 2019/20 academic year. This underlines the success of the Scheme, which in no small part is due to the achievements of the previous cohorts of scholars, many of whom I have met in Hong Kong or abroad.

This afternoon, however, let us focus on this year's extraordinary students. Among some 800 applications, all are high achievers and 83 were ultimately chosen. Fifty-eight of you are about to begin your undergraduate studies. Another 25 are destined for postgraduate programmes. All will be studying at renowned international universities. I am very pleased to know that, for the first time, we have a scholar going to a French institution. Like everyone else here today, I take pride in your determined efforts and outstanding academic results. My congratulations to each and every one of you.

That said, let me add this essential caveat. While you should cherish your singular achievements, and all those who have helped you realise them, don't lose sight of the larger reality: your hard-won scholarship is not an end but merely a beginning. There will be more studies, more work, more decisions on the long and winding road to realising your potential. Eventually, there will be a career – likely more than one – as you build your life, find your places as valuable pillars of society. This is indeed one of the main reasons behind the launching of this Government Scholarship Scheme in 2014. If Hong Kong is to maintain and retain a prosperous international economy and a rewarding community in which to live and work, we need a

younger generation like you.

With that in mind, I must say I'm impressed by the diversified interests and talents of this year's scholarship winners. That's evident in the wide spectrum of disciplines you will be pursuing in the coming years. They range from mathematics and the natural sciences to computing and engineering, the social sciences, business, finance and economics, law, medicine and culture too. They include, as well, music and fine arts, along with disciplines not available in Hong Kong, such as drama therapy and archaeology. That diversity, ladies and gentlemen, reflects well on the passions, pursuits and vibrancy of this year's scholarship awardees. And it can only make Hong Kong an even more splendid place in which to live, love and work in.

For that, my thanks to the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme's Steering Committee, particularly its Chairman, Dr Victor Fung. My thanks, as well, to the interview panel members and mentors of the scholars for their substantial commitment and contributions. Your efforts, your guidance and generosity, have led to another fruitful and rewarding year.

I must also thank the parents, teachers and principals of our scholarship winners. Day after day, year after year, you have helped nurture Hong Kong's next generation of achievers, creators and leaders. You should be proud of your sacrifices, your accomplishments and the future you have helped make possible.

Last September, during my visit to London, I met some of our young scholars studying in the United Kingdom. They told me about their dreams, as well as their aspirations to contribute to Hong Kong after graduating. That was certainly gratifying for me personally. I look forward to meeting the scholars this year in the future, either in Hong Kong or in your places of study, and listening to your story. For now, I will congratulate you again and wish you all the best in your endeavours.

Thank you very much.



Eighty-three students awarded scholarship for excellence

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, today (August 23) officiated at the Award Presentation Ceremony 2018 of the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme (HKSES). Eighty-three students were selected as the fourth cohort of awardees.

Fifty-eight of the awardees are going to pursue undergraduate study and 25 postgraduate study at world-renowned universities. These include not only top-notch comprehensive universities but also world-class institutions specialising in only one or a few particular disciplines.

The disciplines that the awardees are going to pursue cover a wide spectrum, ranging from conventional ones such as natural and social sciences, arts, law and engineering to other specialties such as music and fine arts, and disciplines of study which are currently unavailable in Hong Kong such as drama therapy and archaeology (distribution of the awardees by different disciplines is at the Annex).

"The diverse pool of scholarship recipients well reflects the variety and vibrancy of Hong Kong. The contribution of this diverse pool of talents to our society after their graduation and return to Hong Kong is expected to fuel further long-term development of Hong Kong in many different realms and aspects," said a spokesman for the Education Bureau.

He added that competition for the awards was keen and rigorous, with 789 applicants who will commence their undergraduate or postgraduate study in the 2018/19 academic year vying for the the scholarships. Apart from academic achievements, selection was also based on key considerations including the non-academic attributes of applicants, such as his or her leadership skills and potential as well as commitment and contribution to Hong Kong.

"As the selection process is still ongoing, some more applicants may be offered the scholarship after today's ceremony," the spokesman added. A list of the awardees as of August 23, 2018 has been uploaded to the HKSES website (www.edb.gov.hk/hkses).

Other officiating guests at the award presentation ceremony included the Secretary for Education, Mr Kevin Yeung, and the Chairman of the Steering Committee on the HKSES, Dr Victor Fung.

The HKSES aims to support local students to pursue studies at world-renowned universities outside Hong Kong with a view to grooming a top cadre of talents with global vision, an international network and world-class education, thereby contributing to enhancing Hong Kong's competitiveness as Asia's world city in a globalised knowledge economy. Key features of the scholarship scheme are available at the HKSES website.

Details of the next cohort applications for the HKSES will be announced shortly.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Thursday, August 23, 2018 is 104.3 (up 0.3 against yesterday's index).

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected smuggled smartphones (with photos)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (August 22) seized a total of 118 suspected smuggled smartphones with an estimated market value of about \$680,000 at Shenzhen Bay Control Point.

Customs officers intercepted and conducted searches on two outgoing private vehicles at Shenzhen Bay Control Point yesterday afternoon.

Upon inspection, a total of 118 smartphones were found in the false compartments of the two vehicles.

Two male drivers, aged 36 and 38, were subsequently arrested.

Investigations are 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.

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

