

Hong Kong Customs holds graduation ceremony for Tutor Course of IPR Badge Programme for Youth Ambassador (with photos)

Hong Kong Customs today (July 14) held a graduation ceremony at the Customs Headquarters Building for the first Tutor Course of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Badge Programme for Youth Ambassador organised under the Youth Ambassador Against Internet Piracy Scheme (YAS). A total of 30 Youth Ambassadors were awarded the certificate for completing the Programme. They will assist in various events for promoting the awareness of respect and protection of intellectual property rights amongst the youth.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Lin Shun-yin, said that stringent law enforcement is necessary to fight against infringing activities effectively, but in the long term, it is needed to promote public awareness of respecting and protecting IPR through publicity and education.

"Youngsters are the future of society. It is particularly significant to let them understand the harms of infringing acts and build up their awareness of respecting IPR at an early age," Mr Lin said.

The six-day training programme that the 30 Youth Ambassadors completed was rich in content. Besides having attended a four-day study tour on IPR in Korea co-organised by Hong Kong Customs and the Korea Customs Service, they also participated in training on discipline, leadership and presentation skills. They also attended seminars on customs law enforcement and IPR as well as a workshop on the latest Internet information. Visits to magistrates' courts were arranged, followed by dialogue with a magistrate and the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions.

The Acting Deputy Director of Intellectual Property, Ms Joyce Poon, and the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Martin Hui, SC, joined Mr Lin to officiate at the graduation ceremony. They presented the Best Recruit Award, the Best Leadership Award, the Best Team Spirit Award and other awards to the participants with outstanding performance as a recognition of their achievements during the course.

The YAS was first introduced by Hong Kong Customs in collaboration with the Intellectual Property Department and the IPR industry in 2006. It was established to foster youngsters' respect for IPR at an early age, with an aim of building a solid foundation for IPR protection in society by engaging the youth in combating Internet piracy and in participating in various kinds of educational activities on IPR.

The membership of the YAS includes more than 250 000 members from 13

local youth uniformed groups whose ages range between 9 and 25.

In 2016, Hong Kong Customs launched the Programme as a new initiative. Through specially designed training programmes, youths gain opportunities to strengthen their awareness of respect and protection of IPR.

Three levels of courses, namely the Foundation Course, the Advanced Course and the Tutor Course, are offered in phases under the Programme. The first Foundation Course, the first Advanced Course and the first Tutor Course were launched in phases between 2016 and 2018.

Participants who finish all three levels of courses will be awarded the Certificate for completing the Tutor Course and an IPR badge, and become tutors for the Programme. They will be provided with opportunities to play an important role in the promotion and education activities organised by Hong Kong Customs, relevant government departments and various youth uniformed groups in the future.



Transcript of remarks by FS at media session (with video)

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, at a media session after attending a radio programme this morning (July 14):

Reporter: Mr Chan, does the government has any plan to tighten regulations on resale of HOS flats? Can we expect any concrete measures any time soon? And for the trade war, can you tell us that you think Hong Kong is ready to brace any impact both on a short and long term?

Financial secretary: The measures you mentioned in relation to the housing market is in the context of home ownership scheme, right? On home ownership scheme, the policy consideration is to assist people to acquire their residence for self-occupation purpose. But on the other hand, we recognise

that due to change in circumstances or career development, people may need to, say for example, trade up in the market. That's why, in the mechanism, they are allowed to resell the property to other buyers subject to certain restrictions. But the policy objective remains primarily for people to buy an affordable housing for self-occupation. In relation to trade war, the immediate impact on our GDP for the first round of the measures is estimated to be limited, but that is only the direct impact. But the indirect impact would be much wider, and with the heightening tension and the increasing coverage of the trade war, we expect the impact would be larger and this will hang around for a considerable period. Apart from affecting the real economy, it also affects the capital market and financial market as well as investment sentiment. That indirect impact on Hong Kong will be more significant but that remains to be seen because trade war involves multiple parties and the reaction of other parties are still unclear yet. We will continue to monitor this very closely and to roll out measures to support our small and medium-sized enterprises as needed.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

EMSD implements short-term safety enhancement measures for aged lifts and announces investigation results of lift incident at Waterside Plaza in Tsuen Wan

In view of the lift incidents in recent months involving aged lifts that have yet to undergo modernisation works, the Government proposed earlier short, medium and medium to long-term measures to enhance the safety of those lifts. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) today (July 14) announced the implementation of the following two short-term measures:

1. Contractors shall conduct at least two special maintenance works each year for the important protective components (including brakes, traction machines and landing doors) of aged lifts that have yet to undergo modernisation works. Contractors are also required to submit to the EMSD the scheduled date, time and inspection results of the special maintenance works via an online platform. The EMSD will also step up inspection efforts; and
2. Contractors shall record maintenance works on logbooks with an improved format to list the important protective components involved in each maintenance to facilitate more effective supervision of the contractors'

maintenance works by the EMSD and the responsible persons for lifts.

The EMSD briefed members of the Lift and Escalator Safety Advisory Committee (LESAC) at the Committee's meeting on July 13 and received their support. The EMSD will issue a notice in August on the aforementioned measures and will allow a grace period for the industry and responsible persons for lifts to be better prepared before the measures take effect. The EMSD will also issue letters to relevant stakeholders and step up inspections to ensure full and effective implementation of the new measures.

Separately, the EMSD has completed the technical investigation into the lift incident at Waterside Plaza in Tsuen Wan on April 8 and has uploaded the report on the EMSD's website (www.emsd.gov.hk/en/lifts_and_escalators_safety/publications/general_report/index.html). The investigation revealed that the wearing down of a component in the brake system of the concerned lift had generated a considerable amount of debris that rendered the mechanical parts of the brake unable to function smoothly, thereby leading to the failure of the braking function at the time of the incident. The lift car failed to stop when it reached at the destination floor and was then pulled upwards by the heavier counterweight until it collided with the ceiling of the lift shaft.

After the incident, the EMSD immediately requested the registered lift contractor concerned to conduct a special inspection for lifts of the same brand as in the incident during which no abnormality has been identified. Also, the EMSD issued letters to all registered lift contractors to remind that they must follow the requirements under the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance and Code of Practice for Lift Works and Escalator Works to ensure proper maintenance has been carried out for the brake systems of the lifts under their maintenance. While the technical investigation is now completed, criminal investigation of the incident is still pending. The EMSD emphasised that the law will be strictly enforced if contraventions are identified.

Modern lifts are equipped with more comprehensive safety devices than the aged ones and therefore there is room for improvement and enhancement. In view of this, the EMSD promulgated the Guidelines for Modernising Existing Lifts in 2011 to recommend the responsible persons for lifts installation of safety devices (including the unintended car movement protection device, the ascending car overspeed protection device, etc.) to enable safer, more reliable and comfortable lift operation. The EMSD appeals to all the responsible persons again to carry out modernisation works as soon as possible. Please refer to the EMSD's website for details of lift modernisation at www.emsd.gov.hk/en/lifts_and_escalators_safety/responsible_persons_corner/lift_modernisation_resource_corner/index.html.

Red flag hoisted at Kwun Yam Beach

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 (July 14) that due to big waves, red flag has been hoisted at Kwun Yam Beach in Islands District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.

Red flag hoisted at Lower Cheung Sha Beach

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 (July 14) that due to big waves, red flag has been hoisted at Lower Cheung Sha Beach in Islands District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.