

Appointments to Harbourfront Commission announced

The Government announced today (June 29) the Chief Executive's appointment of the Chairperson and five members to serve on the Harbourfront Commission (HC) for a two-year term commencing on July 1, 2018.

Mr Vincent Ng Wing-shun, a long-serving HC member, will succeed Mr Charles Nicholas Brooke as the new Chairman. Ms Janice Lai Wai-man and Ms Christina Lee Maisenne will join the HC for the first time as members, while three existing members, Ms Kelly Chan Yuen-sau, Mr Alan Lo Yeung-kit and Mr Ngan Man-yu, have been re-appointed.

The Secretary for Development, Mr Michael Wong, welcomed the appointments and re-appointments.

"With Mr Ng's rich experience in the work of harbourfront enhancement and his outstanding leadership demonstrated as the chairman of the Task Force on Kai Tak Harbourfront Development, I am confident that the good work of the HC can be sustained in the years to come. The HC deliberations will also continue to benefit from the diversity brought about by the different backgrounds of new and existing members," Mr Wong said.

"I wish to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing Chairman, Mr Nicholas Brooke, who has been involved in harbourfront-related matters since the establishment of the former Harbourfront Enhancement Committee (HEC) back in 2004, for his able chairmanship since 2010 and his invaluable contribution to the HC over the past years.

"Harbourfront development and enhancement is a core vision shared by both the Government and the HC. The next few years will be challenging for the HC, which is expected to take forward a number of major harbourfront initiatives including those funded by the \$500 million dedicated funding," Mr Wong added.

To provide enhanced support to the HC in taking forward harbourfront initiatives, the Government will, from July 1, 2018, onwards, re-organise the Harbour Unit under the Development Bureau into a dedicated Harbour Office (HO). The HO will be staffed by a multi-disciplinary team comprising different professional and supporting officers.

The HC was established in July 2010 to succeed the HEC to advise the Government on harbourfront planning, design, management and other related matters with the objective of fostering and facilitating the development of the Victoria harbourfront.

Following is the membership of the HC commencing on July 1, 2018:

Chairperson

Mr Vincent Ng Wing-shun

Vice-Chairperson

Secretary for Development

Non-official Members (Organisations)

Business Environment Council

Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong

Conservancy Association

Friends of the Earth

Hong Kong Institute of Architects

Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects

Hong Kong Institute of Planners

Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors

Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design

Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong

Society for Protection of the Harbour

Non-official Members (Individuals)

Mr Chan Ka-kui

Mr Walter Chan Kar-lok

Ms Kelly Chan Yuen-sau

Mr Hans Joachim Isler

Mr Karl Kwok Chi-leung

Ms Janice Lai Wai-man

Ms Christina Lee Maisenne

Ms Vivian Lee Ying-shih

Mr Alan Lo Yeung-kit

Mr Ngan Man-yu

Mr Tony Tse Wai-chuen

Official Members

Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands) or her representative

Commissioner for Tourism or his representative

Commissioner for Transport or her representative

Director of Civil Engineering and Development or his representative

Director of Leisure and Cultural Services or her representative

Director of Marine or her representative

Director of Planning or his representative

Secretary

Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Harbour)

Appointments to Land and Development Advisory Committee announced

The Government today (June 29) announced the appointment of the chairman and members to the Land and Development Advisory Committee (LDAC) for a new term of three years, from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021.

Dr Greg Wong Chak-yan is appointed as chairman of the LDAC. The other 20 non-official members, appointed on an individual basis, are nine nominees from trade and professional organisations, and 11 persons from diverse professional backgrounds covering engineering, construction, real estate development and administration, education, legal, environment, finance, policy research and social services.

The LDAC is tasked to advise the Government, through the Secretary for Development, on policies and procedures in relation to planning, land and buildings matters; specific development proposals and projects initiated by non-governmental organisations or private sector proponents which carry broader economic or social merits; and policies, measures and specific development proposals conducive to Energizing Kowloon East.

With members' extensive professional expertise and experience, the Government will continue to seek the LDAC's advice on development-related policies and procedures in the coming three years.

The full membership of the Committee is as follows:

Chairman

Dr Greg Wong Chak-yan

Non-official members nominated by professional/trade organisations

Mr Au Choi-kai (Hong Kong Institute of Real Estate Administrators)
Mr Joel Chan Cho-sing (Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design)
Mr Allan Chan Sau-kit (Hong Kong Construction Association)
Professor Chan Siu-lai (Hong Kong Institution of Engineers)
Mr Dick Kwok Ngok-chung (Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors)
Mr Andrew Hall Lewis (Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects)
Dr Eunice Mak Hoi-cheung (Hong Kong Institute of Planners)
Mr Douglas Woo Chun-kuen (Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong)
Mr Franklin Yu (Hong Kong Institute of Architects)

Other non-official members

Professor Chau Kwai-cheong
Professor Chau Kwong-wing
Professor Cheung Sai-on
Professor Chong Tai-leung
Mr Chua Hoi-wai
Mr Leung Hing-fung
Mr Ma Kam-wah
Ms Anita Ma Wing-tseung
Mr Francis Ngai Wah-sing
Dr Derrick Pang Yat-bond
Dr Anthony Yeung Chun-wai

Ex-officio members

Secretary for Development
Director of Buildings
Director of Lands
Director of Planning
Government Economist

Spanish National Ballet to return with "Zaguán & Alento" in September

After a five-year hiatus, the Ballet Nacional de España (Spanish National Ballet) will return to Hong Kong in September to stage three performances of its latest production, "Zaguán & Alento".

"Zaguán & Alento" comprises two renowned pieces and follows a challenging proposition to the Spanish National Ballet from the company's director, Antonio Najarro, through which he aims to showcase the company's new aesthetic and style. The performances will be held at 8pm on September 21 and 22 (Friday and Saturday) and at 3pm on September 23 (Sunday) at the Auditorium of Sha Tin Town Hall.

"Zaguán" is a flamenco ballet that seeks to portray transitional space from an array of perspectives, in which three young artists will showcase their personal dance vocabulary, approach and style. The company will also perform "Soleá del Mantón" by Blanca del Rey, one of the grand dames of Spanish flamenco.

"Alento" is presented as a living reflection of Najarro's style as a creator, as well as of his personal vision of classic Spanish dance. It is a reminder of his choreographic trajectory, inspired by the scores of the great

composer and guitarist Fernando Egozcue, who has created music full of rhythm and sensitivity.

Founded in 1978, the Spanish National Ballet is one of the original projects of the National Institute for the Stage Arts and Music. The Ballet has evolved with the times but has preserved its interest in all styles of Spanish dance, performing choreographies, flamenco and stylised Spanish dance. It combines tradition and modernity while not forgetting key aspects such as training and performing new projects.

Antonio Najarro is an accomplished dancer and choreographer. He began his career at 15, performing in many prominent Spanish dance companies. He was accepted into the Spanish National Ballet in 1997 and three years later ascended to the rank of Principal Dancer under the direction of Aida Gomez. Najarro was appointed the ballet's director in 2011.

"Zaguán & Alento" by the Spanish National Ballet is presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. Tickets ranging from \$160 to \$460 are now available at URB TIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7323 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/dance/programs_572.html.

Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2018 gazetted today

The Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2018 was published in the Gazette today (June 29). The Bill amends certain electoral legislation to improve the voter registration (VR) arrangements, and the electoral procedures for the Chief Executive, Election Committee Subsector, Legislative Council (LegCo), District Council and Rural Representative elections.

"We are preparing for the elections in the next election cycle, and have reviewed the electoral legislation in the light of the experience gained. We propose to introduce certain amendments through the Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2018," a Government spokesman said.

In addition, the Bill proposes to enhance the VR system, including increasing maximum penalties for offences relating to VR to strengthen the deterrent effect, and improving the VR claim and objection mechanism so as to process relevant cases more effectively and minimise the chance of any possible abuse. The Bill also proposes to broaden the pool of eligible candidates for appointment as Revising Officer to include former and retired magistrates, in order to allow more flexibility for the Judiciary to make

suitable appointment of Revising Officers.

Furthermore, the Bill proposes to introduce a targeted exemption of the criminal liability in respect of a third party who incurs merely electricity and Internet access charges in publishing election advertisements on the Internet, to safeguard the freedom enjoyed by the public in their daily expression of views on the Internet under the premise of upholding the fairness of elections, and to rationalise electoral procedures and improve the clarity and consistency of certain electoral legislation.

"We plan to introduce the Bill into the LegCo for first and second readings on July 11, 2018. We hope that the Bill can be passed within 2018, so that the amendments to enhance the voter registration and electoral procedures can come into effect as soon as possible," the spokesman said.

The Bill and details of the proposals have been made available at the LegCo webpage.

Scope of tax deductions for capital expenditure incurred for purchase of intellectual property rights expanded

The Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 5) Ordinance 2018 (the Amendment Ordinance) was gazetted and came into operation today (June 29) to expand the scope of profits tax deductions for capital expenditure incurred by enterprises for the purchase of intellectual property (IP) rights from five types to eight with effect from the year of tax assessment 2018/19.

The additional three types of IP rights involved are rights in layout design (topography) of integrated circuits, plant varieties and performances. The original five types of IP rights for which profits tax deductions have already been provided for the capital expenditure incurred for their purchase are patents, know-how, copyright, registered designs and registered trade marks.

"The expansion of the scope of profits tax deductions is one of our initiatives to encourage enterprises to engage in the development of IP trading business and promote Hong Kong as an IP trading hub in the Asia-Pacific region. Implementation of this initiative through the Amendment Ordinance would add new impetus to our efforts," a spokesman for the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau said.

The Amendment Bill also expands the scope of tax deductions originally provided for the registration expenses for trade marks, designs and patents,

to cover plant variety rights as well.

The Amendment Ordinance was passed by the Legislative Council on June 20. With the expansion in the scope of tax deductions provided therein, capital expenditure incurred by enterprises for the purchase of various major types of IP rights, as well as the expenses for the registration of IP rights under applicable regimes, would be deductible under the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112).