

Inspection of aquatic products imported from Japan

In response to the Japanese Government's plan to discharge nuclear-contaminated water at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station, the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene issued a Food Safety Order which prohibits all aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds originating from the 10 metropolis/prefectures, namely Tokyo, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Miyagi, Chiba, Gunma, Tochigi, Niigata, Nagano and Saitama, from being imported into and supplied in Hong Kong.

For other Japanese aquatic products, sea salt, and seaweeds that are not prohibited from being imported into Hong Kong, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will conduct comprehensive radiological tests to verify that the radiation levels of these products do not exceed the guideline levels before they are allowed to be supplied in the market.

As the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water is unprecedented and will continue for 30 years or more, the Government will closely monitor and step up the testing arrangements. Should anomalies be detected, the Government does not preclude further tightening the scope of the import ban.

From noon on November 1 to noon today (November 2), the CFS conducted tests on the radiological levels of 133 food samples imported from Japan, which were of the "aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt" category. No sample was found to have exceeded the safety limit. Details can be found on the CFS's thematic website titled "Control Measures on Foods Imported from Japan" (www.cfs.gov.hk/english/programme/programme_rafs/programme_rafs_fc_01_30_Nuclear_Event_and_Food_Safety.html).

In parallel, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has also tested 50 samples of local catch for radiological levels. All the samples passed the tests. Details can be found on the AFCD's website (www.afcd.gov.hk/english/fisheries/Radiological_testing/Radiological_Test.html).

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) has also enhanced the environmental monitoring of the local waters. No anomaly has been detected so far. For details, please refer to the HKO's website (www.hko.gov.hk/en/radiation/monitoring/seawater.html).

From August 24 to noon today, the CFS and the AFCD have conducted tests on the radiological levels of 11 847 samples of food imported from Japan (including 7 883 samples of aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt) and 3 458 samples of local catch respectively. All the samples passed the tests.

[SCST continues visit to Xiamen \(with photos\)](#)

The Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Mr Kevin Yeung, continued his visit to Xiamen today (November 2).

In the morning, Mr Yeung met with the Sub-Party Secretary of the China Film Association, Mr Zhang Hong; the Deputy Director-General of the China Film Administration, Mr Bai Yimin; and the Director General of the Xiamen Film Administration, Mr Shanguan Jun, to explore opportunities for co-operation. He also briefed them on the Film Financing Scheme for Mainland Market set out in this year's Policy Address.

Mr Yeung said the Film Development Fund will launch the Film Financing Scheme for Mainland Market soon. The scheme aims to provide more opportunities to Hong Kong directors, let them have a better grasp of the Mainland market, enrich their horizons and experience, as well as to strengthen exchanges between the two places so that talented Hong Kong directors could bring more outstanding pieces to Mainland audiences and tell good stories.

During his stay in Xiamen, Mr Yeung also met with the Hong Kong Film Development Council members and industry practitioners from Hong Kong and the Mainland to discuss further collaborations in driving Hong Kong and Mainland film industries.

Mr Yeung will visit Dongguan this afternoon.





[Effective Exchange Rate Index](#)

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Thursday, November 2, 2023 is 106.6 (down 0.2 against yesterday's index).

[Speech by CE at International Forum on "Leading in a Time of Transition" \(English only\) \(with video\)](#)

Following is the video speech by the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, at the International Forum on "Leading in a Time of Transition" today (November 2):

Deputy Director Lu Xinning (Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)), Acting Commissioner Li Yongsheng (Acting Commissioner of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR), Professor Herman Hu (Chairman of Friday Culture Limited), Deputy Secretary-General Maria Tam (Deputy Secretary-General of Hong Kong Coalition), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

The theme of the international forum today is "Leading in a Time of Transition". The forum is joined by government officials, scholars, as well as leaders of businesses and other sectors. Together, we will explore business trends across the globe, and the impact of leadership on the rapid development of society.

I fondly remember addressing this very forum last year, on the theme of "Towards a fairer, safer world". I said last year that the world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century.

Indeed, while we are doing our part to build a fairer and safer society, we are all living in an era of transition. Geopolitical tensions around the world and uncertainties in the global economy, coupled with the threats posed by climate change, food and energy crises, have created challenges to governments, businesses and individuals.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping. In his keynote address at the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing last month, President Xi stressed that humankind is a community with a shared future. The President said, and I quote, "we should jointly address various global risks and challenges, and deliver a bright future of peace, development, co-operation and mutual benefit for future generations".

Under the unique "one country, two systems" principle, Hong Kong is the only city in the world that enjoys both the China advantage and the global advantage.

As an open economy that champions free trade and multilateralism, Hong Kong is committed to boosting our resilience in adapting to challenges that come our way.

We have already signed free trade agreements (FTA) with 20 economies around the world. Hong Kong is striving for early accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, or RCEP. RCEP is the world's largest FTA, and we are committed to deepening regional economic co-operation together with RCEP members.

We have also signed investment agreements with 32 economies. The latest addition is Türkiye, with whom we signed a new IPPA (Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement) this week.

We are negotiating an FTA with Peru. Meanwhile, we are also in active negotiations with Bahrain, Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia on investment agreements. These would provide Hong Kong enterprises with better market access, as well as more thorough legal protection. A better framework to navigate and lead in a world of changes.

And to realise that, it is important to bring ourselves back to the Belt and Road. The Silk Road spirit of peace and co-operation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit is the most important source of strength for Belt and Road co-operation.

As an East-meets-West centre for international arts and cultural exchange, Hong Kong has signed MOUs (Memoranda of Understanding) on cultural co-operation with more than 10 Belt and Road countries.

Hong Kong is also bestowed with a wealth of museums and exhibition resources. Located at the burgeoning West Kowloon Cultural District, the Hong Kong Palace Museum, which showcases treasures from the Forbidden City, and M+, which is Asia's first global museum of contemporary visual culture, have become must-see attractions for visitors.

In this free and enterprising Asia's world city, we welcome our friends from around the world to rejoice in our cultural venues, and better understand one another. Expanding our circle of friends from around the world, I believe, will go a long way to helping us lead in this time of transition.

As will building a harmonious and cohesive society. Ladies and gentlemen, the District Council Ordinary Election will take place on December 10. I encourage you all to cast your vote on the day, to elect capable, patriotic representatives who are passionate to serve the local community.

On that note, I wish all of you good health and the best of business. Thank you very much.

[An exceptionally cloudy and wet October](#)

With more than usual moisture in the lower atmosphere over southern China, October 2023 was much cloudier than usual in Hong Kong. The mean amount of cloud in the month was 79 per cent, 21 per cent above the normal of 58 per cent and the second highest on record for October. The duration of bright sunshine in the month was only 138.9 hours, about 30 per cent lower than the normal figure of 197.8 hours and the fourth lowest on record for October. Mainly attributing to the record-breaking rainfall associated with tropical cyclone Koinu on October 8 and 9, the month was also much wetter than usual. The monthly total rainfall was 546.0 millimetres, more than four times the normal figure of 120.3 millimetres and the fifth highest on record for October. The accumulated rainfall this year up to October was 2770.3 millimetres, about 17 per cent more than the normal figure of 2363.1 millimetres for the same period. Despite the below normal sunshine, the month was warmer than usual. The mean temperature of 26.4 degrees was 0.7 degrees above the normal and one of the fourth highest for October on record. There were three very hot days in the early part of the month, the highest on record for October.

Under the influence of an anticyclone aloft, apart from a few showers and isolated thunderstorms, it was very hot with sunny periods during the day on the first three days of the month. Meanwhile, severe typhoon Koinu over

the western North Pacific moved northwestwards towards the Luzon Strait. It turned to move westwards on October 4 and skirted past the southern part of Taiwan on the morning of October 5. Koinu moved slowly across the northern part of the South China Sea and edged towards the Pearl River Estuary in the next two days. Koinu weakened into a typhoon on October 8 and skirted past about 70 kilometres to the south of Hong Kong that night. It continued to move across the coastal waters of Guangdong the next day and weakened progressively into an area of low pressure over the coastal waters of Yangjiang on that night.

Under the influence of the outer subsiding air of Koinu, it was generally fine and very hot during the day in Hong Kong on October 4 and 5. The maximum temperature at the Observatory soared to 34.6 degrees on the afternoon of October 4, the highest of the month and the highest monthly absolute maximum temperature on record for October. Moreover, the daily mean temperature on that day reached 30.8 degrees, the highest on record for October. With Koinu edging closer to the coast of Guangdong, while there were sunny periods during the day, winds over Hong Kong picked up gradually and there were a few showers on the night of October 6. Local wind strength increased further on October 7 with strong winds offshore and occasional gales on high ground. The weather also turned cloudy with a few squally showers on that day.

With Koinu moving towards the vicinity of the Pearl River Estuary, the weather of Hong Kong deteriorated significantly on October 8 and the Gale or Storm Signal No. 8 was issued on that afternoon. Local winds strengthened significantly and reached storm force offshore and on high ground that night. The Increasing Gale or Storm Signal No. 9 was also issued that night when the compact eyewall of Koinu bearing hurricane-force wind skirted closely the south of Hong Kong. With Koinu weakening and departing from Hong Kong, local winds moderated later on October 9. Koinu brought squally heavy showers to Hong Kong on October 8 and 9, and necessitated the issuance of the Black Rainstorm Warning on the morning of October 9. The rainfall recorded at the Observatory on October 9 reached 369.7 millimetres, more than three times October's monthly total normal figure of 120.3 millimetres and the highest daily rainfall on record for October. Moreover, the 24-hour rainfall from 3pm on October 8 to 3pm next day reached 439.8 millimetres, breaking the highest record for October. Overall, more than 300 millimetres of rainfall were recorded over most parts of the territory and the rainfall even exceeded 600 millimetres in Central and Western, Wan Chai, Wong Tai Sin and Kwun Tong Districts on October 8 and 9.

Under the influence of the outer rainbands associated with the remnant of Koinu, it was cloudy with a few showers on October 10. With the thinning out of the cloud bands, there were sunny periods in Hong Kong from October 11 to 15. It was also dry during the day from October 13 to 15. Affected by a fresh to strong northeast monsoon, there were sunny intervals and a few showers on October 16 and 17. Meanwhile, an area of low pressure over the central part of the South China Sea intensified into a tropical depression on October 17 and was later named as Sanba. It moved northwards slowly towards Beibu Wan and intensified into a tropical storm on October 18. Sanba lingered

over the vicinity of Beibu Wan and Hainan Island on October 19 and dissipated gradually over there the next day.

Affected by the rainbands associated with Sanba, the weather of Hong Kong was cloudy with occasional showers on October 18 and 19. More than 20 millimetres of rainfall were recorded over most parts of the territory and the rainfall even exceeded 80 millimetres over Sha Tin and Causeway Bay on these two days. Local weather remained cloudy with a few showers on October 20. Meanwhile, a cold front moved across the coast of Guangdong later on that day. Under the influence of the associated northeast monsoon, the weather of Hong Kong became slightly cooler on the next two days. The temperatures at the Observatory fell to a minimum of 22.0 degrees on October 21 under rain patches, the lowest of the month. The weather became dry with sunny intervals on October 22.

With the prevalence of the anticyclone aloft, apart from a few light rain patches on the morning of October 23, it was mainly fine from October 23 to 27. Affected by a fresh to strong northeast monsoon and a broad band of clouds, local weather turned mainly cloudy with a few showers on October 28 and 29. With the clouds thinning out, it was mainly fine and dry on the last two days of the month.

Three tropical cyclones occurred over the South China Sea and the western North Pacific in October 2023.

Details of issuance and cancellation of various warnings/signals in the month are summarised in Table 1. Monthly meteorological figures and departures from normal for October are tabulated in Table 2.