

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 is 106.7 (same as yesterday's index).

Tin Sau Road Swimming Pool temporarily closed

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at regular intervals:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (March 26) that Tin Sau Road Swimming Pool in Yuen Long District has been temporarily closed for cleaning and superchlorination following the discovery of a small amount of vomit in the pool.

It will be reopened at 7pm.

The department appeals to swimmers to be considerate and to keep the swimming pools clean. They are advised not to swim after a full meal and should use the toilet facilities if necessary before swimming.

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 is conducting 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 the situation and continue to implement the enhanced testing arrangements. Should anomalies be detected, the Government does not preclude further tightening the scope of the import ban.

From noon on March 25 to noon today (March 26), the CFS conducted tests on the radiological levels of 252 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, 2023, to noon today, the CFS and the AFCD have conducted tests on the radiological levels of 124 991 samples of food imported from Japan (including 82 133 samples of aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt) and 28 830 samples of local catch respectively. All the samples passed the tests.

LCQ18: Kai Tak Development Area

Following is a question by Dr the Hon Starry Lee and a written reply by the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Miss Rosanna Law, in the Legislative Council today (March 26):

Question:

There are views that the Kai Tak Sports Park (KTSP), being the most-recently completed key facility in the Kai Tak Development Area, is developed on a world class scale with multi-functional positioning. The community hopes that the authorities will make use of the KTSP as a starting point to drive development of the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal (KTCT), the "Youth Post" hostel and even the entire Kai Tak area, and transform Kai Tak into a hub featuring diversification and integrated development of sports, culture, tourism and youth, by consolidating resources and facilitating cross-domain collaboration. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) of the specific plans in place to drive the co-ordinated development of the KTCT, the "Youth Post" hostel and the entire Kai Tak area centring around the KTSP, such as the specific measures in terms of policy formulation, resource allocation and cross-departmental collaboration;

(2) of the plans in place to improve the external ancillary transport facilities for the "Youth Post" hostel and the KTCT, so as to strengthen the connectivity of the two facilities with the KTSP, and facilitate the cross-district movement of tourists and members of the public;

(3) of the measures in place to promote business collaborations of the KTSP with the KTCT and the "Youth Post" hostel, so as to attract cross-location spending from tourists and members of the public, and foster the overall economic benefits to be brought to the Kai Tak area;

(4) of the plans in place to make use of technology to consolidate resources of the KTSP, the KTCT and the "Youth Post" hostel, so as to offer seamless guided tours and proposed itineraries to enhance the overall experience of tourists and members of the public, and to provide consolidated information on the activities to be held at the KTSP, thereby promoting cross-facility interactions; and

(5) of the strategies in place to build a distinctive cultural brand of Kai Tak, with the KTSP as the core, integrating the tourism flows of the KTCT and the creative energy of the "Youth Post" hostel, so as to enhance the cultural uniqueness and the international appeal of the district?

Reply:

President,

The Kai Tak Development Area, spanning a total planning area of over 320 hectares, features a mix of community, housing, business, tourism and infrastructural uses. The Kai Tak Sports Park (KTSP), the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal (KTCT) and "Youth Post" hostel are all situated in the area. The KTSP is the largest sports infrastructure project in Hong Kong's history, which boosts sports development and injects impetus into related industries such as recreation, entertainment and tourism, and mega-event economy. The KTCT is an infrastructure built for berthing large cruise ships, bringing cruise passengers to Hong Kong from around the world. To expand spaces and network for youths, the Chief Executive's 2024 Policy Address announced that

the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) will convert the Kai Tak Community Isolation Facility into a youth development facility, which includes setting up a "Youth Post" hostel and creating spaces for youth cultural, arts and sports exchanges, with a view to promoting mutual exchange among Mainland, overseas and local young people, and creating spaces to stimulate creativity.

In consultation with the Development Bureau (DEVB), the HYAB and the Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB), the consolidated reply to the question raised by the Dr Hon Starry Lee is as follows:

(1) and (3) In preparing the work plans for the KTSP and the KTCT, the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (CSTB) will consider how the two major infrastructures could complement each other, with a view to creating synergies by fully leveraging the respective facilities.

The KTSP provides Hong Kong with diversified as well as the largest and state-of-the-art venues for hosting various sports and entertainment events and offers a one-stop sports, leisure, catering and shopping experience for citizens and tourists. With its official commissioning on March 1, the KTSP will become a new hub for hosting major sports and entertainment events, creating favourable conditions for further promoting the mega-event economy. The KTSP will attract tourists to spend in Hong Kong by hosting various large-scale sports, culture or entertainment events, and provide cruise passengers with more options for onshore activities. Hotels in the vicinity of the KTSP will also offer an additional choice of accommodation for travellers (including cruise passengers before or after their voyages). The CSTB, in collaboration with the cruise industry through the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB), has also developed a new shore excursion itinerary in Kowloon East covering the KTSP, the "Live out the Cinematic Charm of Hong Kong" Twilight of the Warriors: Walled In Exhibition being held at AIRSIDE shopping mall in Kai Tak, Kowloon Walled City Park, Chi Lin Nunnery and Nan Lian Garden, offering tourists with a greater variety of shore excursions.

On the other hand, the CSTB will further use the KTCT for other commercial purposes, such as conventions, exhibitions and activities. In particular, we hope to utilise spaces within the terminal during non-peak season when fewer cruise ships are at berth, with a view to elevating the function of the KTCT as a cruise terminal for all. Specifically and amongst others, through the HKTB, the terminal has been selected as the venue of the prestigious global cocktail award ceremony "The World's 50 Best Bars" scheduled to be held in October this year.

In respect of "Youth Post" hostel, the HYAB issued a tender document on December 20, 2024, to select, through open tender, a suitable organisation for operating the youth facility under a short-term tenancy. The HYAB is assessing the tenders received, including proposals from applicant organisations on how they will set up and operate the youth facility. The HYAB expects that the assessment and award of tender will be completed in the first half of 2025, and the concerned facility will progressively begin its operation within 2025. The HYAB has required the applicant organisations to submit, in their tenders, proposals on how to operate and utilise "Youth

Post" hostel. Upon the award of tender, the HYAB will further discuss with the awarded tenderer on ways to better utilise "Youth Post" hostel and other relevant facilitation and publicity measures, including collaboration arrangements between the awarded tenderer and relevant government departments and/or organisations, with a view to promoting mutual exchange among Mainland, overseas and local young people as well as youth development. The CSTB is also in close communication with the HYAB regarding the collaboration between "Youth Post" hostel and the KTCT. After the tender is awarded, we will further connect the awarded tenderer of "Youth Post" hostel with the respective operators of the KTCT and the KTSP fully commissioned recently to explore further opportunities.

In addition to the KTSP, there are a few large retail facilities within the Kai Tak Development Area near Kai Tak MTR Station. A harbourfront promenade will also be constructed connecting the KTSP and the KTCT, not only providing a panoramic view of Victoria Harbour, but also clusters of retail and dining outlets. The CSTB will channel operators of the concerned facilities to explore ways to provide greater convenience and enhanced experience to cruise visitors, boost business opportunities of the KTCT, and attract citizens and tourists to the area. Seizing the opportunities brought by the gradual intake of nearby residential developments, the CSTB will invite expression of interest for the whole ancillary commercial area and rooftop park of the KTCT to revitalise the spaces in the KTCT. Interested vendors and organisations are welcome to submit feasible proposals including but not limited to conventional retail business.

(2) Currently, there are four franchised bus routes and one green minibus route servicing the KTCT, connecting Kai Tak MTR Station, a number of MTR stations in the vicinity, the West Kowloon High Speed Rail Station, as well as the Yau Tsim Mong area. The franchised bus services concerned also connect the KTCT with the KTSP, facilitating intra-district travel by tourists and citizens. "Youth Post" hostel under planning is adjacent to the KTCT. The Government will build a pedestrian crossing between the two facilities to facilitate the use of relevant public transport services by residents and visitors of "Youth Post" hostel.

The Transport Department has already planned to introduce two new franchised bus routes servicing the KTCT, i.e. Citybus Route 20X and Route 22S, providing express services to Hung Hom and Tsim Sha Tsui direct and connecting services to and from the Kai Tak MTR Station respectively. They will come into service at an appropriate juncture subject to the progress of development and population intake of the Kai Tak Runway Area. The Government will continue to closely monitor the development progress of various projects in the Kai Tak Development Area and plan appropriate public transport services to meet the travelling needs of the public and tourists.

Moreover, the TLB is implementing the Smart and Green Mass Transit System in Kai Tak (the Project) in full swing for connecting the Kai Tak former runway area to the Kai Tak MTR Station, thereby strengthening connectivity of the residential and commercial developments, tourism, culture and recreation, sports and community facilities within the area, as well as

the connection with the railway network. The Project proposes to have stations at the KTCT (adjacent to "Youth Post" hostel), Kai Tak Sky Garden, the proposed Kai Tak Metro Park, the KTSP and Kai Tak Station Square, etc, enabling the citizens and tourists to access various parts and facilities along the Kai Tak former runway area. The TLB targets to invite tender for the Project in the second half of 2025 for awarding the contract in 2026.

(4) As one of the four strategies set out in the Development Blueprint for Hong Kong's Tourism Industry 2.0, the Government will strengthen the promotion of smart tourism through the use of information technology, such as electronic platforms, big data and artificial intelligence (AI), to further enhance the smart level of tourism services. More smart elements will also be added to tourist attractions to provide tourists with a more convenient, efficient and user-friendly travel experience. On integration of tourism resources, the HKTB will enhance the one-stop travel information platform, Discover Hong Kong, to provide tourists with more comprehensive, reliable, and up-to-date travel information, including attractions, dining, activities and merchant offers. The aim is to offer tourists a seamless digital experience throughout their journey from itinerary planning, visiting Hong Kong to returning to their place of residence. The HKTB will also develop a Live Travel Map on Discover Hong Kong. Tourists can access the website using a mobile device or desktop computer, and obtain real-time travel information and recommendations covering different parts of Hong Kong (including the vicinity of Kai Tak) by entering keywords or selecting the relevant categories of information. In addition, the HKTB will kick start preliminary development of the Smart Itinerary Planner. The first phase will include integration of travel information, development of a back-end system, and training of an AI model to verify the accuracy of its answers. In the long run, a customised itinerary planning tool based on age, interests and travel purposes will be developed to provide personalised itinerary suggestions.

On the other hand, the operator of the KTSP will provide visitors with one-stop services through its mobile app, including promotion information on leisure and catering options as well as various events. The CSTB will continue to work closely with the operator, relevant departments and the HKTB, with a view to further enhancing visitors' experience.

(5) The DEVB has adopted a series of visual identity elements to represent the Kai Tak Development Area, effectively conveying the design concept of the entire development. These elements include the slogan, logo, typography, colour scheme, and barcode pattern associated with the "Current of Vitality" theme. They are applied to construction site hoardings and integrated into the architectural designs of various projects to establish a clear connection with the Kai Tak Development Plan.

These visual identity features have been implemented across various projects, such as the Kai Tak Fire Station at Cheung Yip Street, the sewage pumping station at Prince Edward Road East, as well as various public street facilities and recreational amenities, including rain shelters, roadside benches, trash bins, bicycle racks, and information poster stands.

The DEVB has also established a set of design guidelines to ensure that relevant development projects can incorporate these elements into public facilities during the detailed design phase. This gradually brings the "Current of Vitality" design concept to life across the Kai Tak Development Area, creating a unified connection throughout the area. The goal is for residents or visitors to immediately sense this visual connection and develop a sense of belonging as soon as they enter Kai Tak. This aims to make the Kai Tak Development Area and its surroundings a visually cohesive space that embodies a consistent brand identity.

WSD-registered consumer convicted of failing to provide relevant information or documents for suspected case of overcharging for water

The Water Supplies Department (WSD) announced that a WSD-registered consumer of a subdivided flat in To Kwa Wan, Kowloon, was convicted today (March 26) of failing to comply with the Water Authority's request to provide relevant information or documents for a suspected case of overcharging for water, in contravention of regulation 47A of the Waterworks Regulations. The consumer pleaded guilty to the offence at the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts.

A spokesman for the WSD said that the Waterworks (Amendment) Ordinance (amended WWO) 2024 has strengthened the power of the Water Authority in evidence collection and information disclosure during the investigation of suspected cases of overcharging for water. The Water Authority can request the landlords, their agents, etc, to provide the tenancy agreement, receipt or payment record for charges for water. Failure to comply with such a request can be an offence and the offender is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of \$10,000 and a further fine of up to \$1,000 for each day the offence continues. It is anticipated that there will be more prosecution cases. The maximum penalty for overcharging tenants of subdivided units (SDUs) for water has been raised to \$25,000 to deter this illegal act. Moreover, providing false or misleading information to the Water Authority is also an offence with a maximum penalty of a \$25,000 fine and six months' imprisonment.

The WSD spokesman strongly appealed to landlords to apply for the installation of separate water meters for their SDUs, which can greatly reduce the risk of contravening the amended WWO. The WSD encourages the public to report any illegal act of overcharging SDU tenants for water for follow up and investigation by the department. The public can call the WSD

Hotline 3468 4963 or WhatsApp 5665 5517 to apply for the installation of separate water meters for SDUs. The WhatsApp hotline also handles matters relating to water overcharging in SDUs. Alternatively, the public can call the WSD Customer Enquiry Hotline 2824 5000 to report water overcharge cases. After calling the hotline and choosing a language, they can press "7" for reporting to staff directly.