

Task Group on New Medical School discusses next steps for evaluating proposals on establishment of third medical school (with photo)

The Task Group on New Medical School, co-chaired by the Secretary for Health, Professor Lo Chung-mau, and the Secretary for Education, Dr Choi Yuk-lin, convened its third meeting today (February 28) to discuss the next steps for evaluating proposals on the establishment of the third medical school.

At the meeting, the Task Group agreed to adopt a holistic and comprehensive approach, in accordance with the 10 key parameters as set out earlier (including the financial sustainability of the new medical school), for evaluating the proposals submitted by universities from various perspectives. The expert advisors and other members of the Task Group will conduct an in-depth evaluation of the proposals in their respective areas of expertise. Apart from evaluating the content of the proposals, the Task Group also plans to conduct interviews within the second quarter of this year with the universities which have submitted proposals to get a better grasp of the proposals for making a consolidated consideration. The Task Group expects to complete the evaluation and recommend to the Government within this year a proposal that is in line with developing Hong Kong into an international medical training, research and innovation hub.

Professor Lo said, "I hope that the final recommendation put forward by the Task Group later this year on the establishment of the new medical school will bring the standards of medical education and research in Hong Kong to new heights. In addition, the Financial Secretary has announced in the 2025-26 Budget that the Government will set aside resources to support universities in the development of the new medical school on a matching basis. In this connection, the financial sustainability of the proposed new medical school is of great importance. The funding arrangement of the new medical school is in fact also one of the 10 key parameters for consideration as set out by the Task Group earlier. The Task Group will examine in detail whether the proposals provide for a diversified funding plan, combined with viable financial management, to ensure the long-term and sustainable development of the new medical school."

Dr Choi said, "The 2024-2035 master plan on building China into a leading country in education newly released by our nation strives to accelerate the development of world-class universities and advanced disciplines. The assessment framework for the new medical school as endorsed by the Task Group lays down clear assessment requirements and criteria, including teaching and learning quality, and research excellence. As an important part of the Northern Metropolis University Town (NMUT), the new medical school not only can contribute to the overall development of the relevant university, but also enhance the academic and research excellence of

the medical sector, which is conducive to developing Hong Kong into an international post-secondary education hub. We expect that the proposals to be submitted by the relevant institutions will set out collaborative development strategies with the higher education clusters and the medical sector in the vicinity of the NMUT to enhance the international competitiveness of Hong Kong's post-secondary education."

The Task Group was established in October last year and has formulated the directions and parameters for establishing the new medical school. The [10 key parameters for consideration](#) consist of Innovative strategic positioning, Staffing, Campus and teaching facilities, Clinical exposure and learning resources, Curriculum structure and assessment methodologies, Student admission arrangements, Funding arrangements, Implementation plan, Teaching and learning quality, as well as Research excellence. The Task Group issued a letter of invitation in December last year to local universities interested in establishing the new medical school for submission of proposals by March 17 this year, and held a briefing session to introduce to universities the relevant arrangements.



[Hong Kong Customs detects case of non-registered precious metals and stones dealer carrying out specified transactions](#)

Hong Kong Customs today (February 28) detected a case involving a local company that conducted multiple jewellery transactions, with each transaction valued at over HK\$120,000, without registration under the Dealers in Precious Metals and Stones Regulatory Regime. The owner of the company was arrested.

An investigation is ongoing. The arrested person has been released on bail pending further investigation.

According to the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance (Cap. 615), the Regime came into effect on April 1, 2023. Any person who is seeking to carry on a business of dealing in precious metals and stones in Hong Kong and engage in any transaction(s) (whether making or receiving a payment) with a total value at or above HK\$120,000 in Hong Kong is required to register with the Commissioner of Customs and Excise. Any dealer, other than a registrant, who claims to be a registrant, claims to be authorised to carry out, or carries out any cash or non-cash transaction(s) with a total value at or above HK\$120,000 is liable to a maximum fine of HK\$100,000 and imprisonment for six months upon conviction.

Hong Kong Customs reminds all dealers that the transitional period for registration under the Regime has ended. Any dealers in precious metals and stones must obtain the relevant registration before they can carry out any cash or non-cash transaction(s) with a total value at or above HK\$120,000.

For the forms, procedures and guidelines to submit applications for registration, please visit the website for Dealers in Precious Metals and Stones Registration System (www.drs.customs.gov.hk) or Hong Kong Customs' webpage (www.customs.gov.hk/en/service-enforcement-information/anti-money-laundering/supervision-of-dealers-in-precious-metals-and-ston/index.html).

Members of the public may report any suspected transactions involving precious metals and stones with a total value at or above HK\$120,000 conducted without the required registration to Customs' 24-hour hotline 182 8080 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk) or online form (eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002/en).

Government receives 27 expression of interest submissions for Smart and Green Mass Transit System in Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen and Yuen Long South New Development Areas project

â€‹The Transport and Logistics Bureau, jointly with the Transport Department (TD), invited relevant system suppliers and operators to submit expressions of interest (EOI) for the Smart and Green Mass Transit System (SGMTS) project in Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen and Yuen Long South New Development Areas (HSK/HT and YLS NDAs) on December 20, 2024. The invitation for the EOI closed today (February 28), and a total of 27 submissions from local,

Mainland and overseas companies have been received.

A spokesperson for the TD said, "The feedback gathered from the EOI will enhance our understanding of various technical aspects of the project, including system characteristics, operational capabilities, and maintenance and repair requirements. We will immediately commence analysing the information from the EOI, which will serve as a reference for firming up the specific requirements and designs of the SGMTS and the relevant infrastructure, as well as ascertaining the delivery mode and financial arrangements of the project."

"The Government will continue to take forward the SGMTS in the HSK/HT and YLS NDAs project with full momentum, endeavouring to invite tenders for the project in 2026 and award the contract in 2027. In addition, we will make reference to the views gathered from the EOI to explore various procurement options, and to review the feasibility of shortening the overall programme of the project," the spokesperson added.

[Import of poultry meat and products from areas in Poland and Sweden suspended](#)

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (February 28) that in view of notifications from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in KoÅcian District of Wielkopolskie Region in Poland, and in Municipality of Kristianstad of Skåne County in Sweden, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the above-mentioned areas with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that according to the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong imported about 6 600 tonnes of frozen poultry meat from Poland, and about 110 tonnes of frozen poultry meat from Sweden last year.

"The CFS has contacted the Polish and Swedish authorities over the issues and will closely monitor information issued by the WOAH and the relevant authorities on the avian influenza outbreaks. Appropriate action will be taken in response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.

National Training Course for Talents Handling Foreign-related Arbitration (Hong Kong) organised by Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy and Ministry of Justice concludes

The two-week National Training Course for Talents Handling Foreign-related Arbitration (Hong Kong), organised by the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy and the Ministry of Justice, concluded today (February 28).

The Deputy Secretary for Justice, Dr Cheung Kwok-kwan, attended the closing ceremony this afternoon and expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Justice, the China University of Political Science and Law, and the China Legal Service (H.K.) Limited for their support and assistance that was crucial to the success of the training course. He also extended his gratitude to the participants for their active participation. He further mentioned that the Academy will continuously organise more tailor-made training programmes to give full play to Hong Kong's unique strength in nurturing more foreign-related legal talent for the country.

The two-week training course for more than 80 participants, comprising Mainland in-house counsel, experienced arbitrators, lawyers and arbitration practitioners, commenced last Monday (February 17). Speakers of the training course included members of the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Expert Committee and experienced local legal professionals.

The Academy will capitalise on Hong Kong's bilingual common law system and international status and continue to leverage the unique advantages of enjoying the strong support of the motherland and being closely connected to the world under the "one country, two systems" principle. Also, it will promote exchange of international legal talent and reinforce Hong Kong's status as a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region, in order to develop Hong Kong as a capacity-building centre and play a better role in the construction of foreign-related rule of law of the country.