

# Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 is 108.6 (down 0.5 against yesterday's index).

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## Exchange Fund Bills tender results

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

Exchange Fund Bills tender results:

Tender date	: April 7, 2020
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q2015
Issue date	: April 8, 2020
Maturity date	: July 8, 2020
Amount applied	: HK\$142,228 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$59,289 MN
Average yield accepted	: 0.71 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 0.77 PCT
Pro rata ratio	: About 0.9 PCT
Average tender yield	: 0.85 PCT

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Tender date	: April 7, 2020
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H2044
Issue date	: April 8, 2020
Maturity date	: October 7, 2020
Amount applied	: HK\$64,225 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$17,000 MN
Average yield accepted	: 0.64 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 0.67 PCT
Pro rata ratio	: About 70 PCT
Average tender yield	: 0.79 PCT

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## EMSD announces latest sampling results for legionella at fresh water cooling towers

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) today (April 7) announced that the department tested 99 water samples collected from cooling towers in 62 buildings in its routine inspections in March this year. None of them was detected to have a total legionella count at or above the upper threshold, which is 1 000 colony-forming units per millilitre. The latest statistics are set out in Annex 1.

The EMSD also announced the locations of buildings which were served with nuisance notices during the preceding three-month period as the total legionella count was found in the fresh water cooling towers to be equal to or above the upper threshold. Details can be found in Annex 2. The EMSD publishes the latest statistics of the above information on a half-monthly basis on its website ([www.emsd.gov.hk/en/other\\_regulatory\\_services/cooling\\_towers/water\\_sampling/index.html](http://www.emsd.gov.hk/en/other_regulatory_services/cooling_towers/water_sampling/index.html)).

The EMSD reminds the owners of fresh water cooling towers that they have the responsibility to design, operate and maintain cooling towers properly. They should arrange regular inspections, timely maintenance and periodic testing of the water quality in their cooling towers in accordance with the Code of Practice for Fresh Water Cooling Towers issued by the department to prevent the proliferation of legionella.

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## Transcript of remarks by SCMA at media session on LegCo election

Following is the transcript of remarks made by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Patrick Nip, at a media session today (April 7) after attending the special meeting of the Legislative Council Finance Committee:

Reporter: Regarding the LegCo election, would the Government consider postponing it? Secondly, on RTHK asking questions to WHO on Taiwan, how does that show, even by asking questions, that it's assumed to breach the One-China Principle?

Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs: Regarding your second question, I have already responded to it last Saturday and at the meeting

just now. So I will not repeat.

As regards the LegCo election, the first point is that the Electoral Affairs Commission and the Registration and Electoral Office are doing all the necessary preparatory work for the LegCo election, including voter registration, consultation on the guidelines on election-related activities in respect of the Legislative Council Election and making arrangements for recruiting polling staff and finding polling stations. All this preparatory work is ongoing. We are doing our utmost to do it.

Secondly, because of the epidemic situation, we have to monitor it closely to assess its impact on the society, the public health risks and the possible effect on the LegCo election. So it is too early to say. We will monitor it closely and make an assessment so that we are in a position to do the steps about the gazettal of the polling date. But it's clear that the Legislative Council Ordinance has set out the timeline, including the time range that the election should be held, the period for nomination and time allowed for campaigns, etc. We would adhere to what is laid out in the Ordinance and plan our work accordingly. Thank you very much.

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

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## SHA's opening remarks at LegCo Finance Committee special meeting

â€œFollowing is the English translation of the opening remarks by the Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Lau Kong-wah, at the special meeting of the Legislative Council Finance Committee today (April 7):

Mr Chairman,

I would like to brief Members about the key areas of our work on home affairs in 2020-21.

Arts and culture

Since its inception in 2016, the Art Development Matching Grants Scheme (ADMGS) has been well received by different arts groups. It has also helped foster a culture of private donations to the arts and cultural sector. To ensure the sustainability of the ADMGS and to encourage arts groups to seek non-government resources and support in a more active manner, the Government will inject an additional \$900 million into the ADMGS.

The West Kowloon Cultural District has formally entered its operational phase. The Xiqu Centre, the Art Park and Freespace, among others, have been commissioned last year. Other arts and cultural facilities in the district

will also be completed in the next few years.

To continue its support for District Councils to promote arts and cultural activities at the district level, the Government will, starting from 2020-21, regularise the additional "dedicated allocation" of \$20.8 million for the promotion of arts and cultural activities under the community involvement (CI) programmes. In this connection, the total annual amount of funding for CI programmes will be maintained at \$461.6 million.

## Sports

### Supporting Hong Kong athletes to prepare for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

Despite the postponement of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, we will continue to give our full support for Hong Kong athletes to achieve outstanding results at the Games. As at the end of March this year, Hong Kong athletes have qualified for 30 and 17 events in the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games respectively. The Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) has implemented anti-epidemic measures to help safeguard the health of our athletes, and will make flexible arrangements to adjust training programmes and competition plans in order to help our athletes continue with their intensive preparation.

### Enhanced funding support to the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) and "national sports associations" (NSAs)

To further promote the development of sports in Hong Kong, we will substantially increase the annual subvention provided for the SF&OC and 60 NSAs progressively from the existing level of about \$300 million to over \$500 million. The additional subvention will be used to enhance the promotion of sports for all and community participation in sports, step up the training for youth and squads, provide more opportunities for athletes to participate in overseas competitions and improve the manpower and governance of NSAs.

### Special measures in response to social incidents and the epidemic

Last year, some major sports events were cancelled. We will provide a special direct grant of up to \$2 million to each of the "M" Mark events affected. We are also actively considering providing appropriate support to those "M" Mark events affected by the epidemic.

### New facilities building project of the HKSI

We will continue to take forward the new facilities project of the HKSI and commence its pre-construction activities as soon as possible to provide local athletes with world-class training and support facilities.

### Transformation of public play spaces

The Government plans to transform more than 170 public play spaces

managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department across the territory over the next five years in order to provide innovative, challenging and interesting play spaces. The total estimated expenditure for the entire project is about \$686 million.

#### Youth development

Around \$100 million under the Youth Development Fund will be allocated to provide subsidies to nearly 200 young entrepreneurs and to render start-up support and incubation services to about 4 000 young people. Besides, in order to provide more opportunities for young people to participate in policy discussions, the Government has regularised the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth. So far, more than 250 posts are held by young people who have been appointed to advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs) directly or indirectly through "self-recommendation". The proportion of appointed youth members in ASBs has increased from 7.8 per cent in 2017 to 11.6 per cent at present, gradually approaching the target of 15 per cent within the current-term Government.

#### District administration

##### District-led Actions Scheme

The annual recurrent provision for District-led Actions Scheme will be increased from \$63 million to \$80 million from 2020-21 onwards to further address long-standing problems and capitalise on opportunities in districts.

#### Building management

In 2020-21, we will regularise the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme to strengthen our support for owners of "three-nil" buildings and encourage them to form owners' corporations.

My colleagues and I are happy to answer questions from Members. Thank you.