

Big Wave Bay Beach reopened

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (March 26) that the shark prevention net at Big Wave Bay Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island, has been repaired and the beach has been reopened.

The beach was temporarily closed earlier on for shark prevention net maintenance work.

However, due to big waves, the red flag is still hoisted at the beach. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.

Hong Kong and Australia sign MOU on co-operation in field of intellectual property

The Intellectual Property Department (IPD) announced today (March 26) that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with IP Australia to strengthen mutual co-operation in the field of intellectual property (IP).

Under the MOU, Hong Kong and Australia would pursue co-operation in a wide range of areas including exchange of information in different aspects of IP protection and commercialisation and capacity building in patent examination; sharing of experience in the operation of the international trade mark registration system, promotion of dispute resolution to resolve IP disputes and development of information technology systems for management of examination and grant of IP rights.

The Director of Intellectual Property, Mr David Wong, said, "I am confident that this collaborative initiative would inspire and bring about more joint IP undertakings in future. As Hong Kong will soon roll out the "original grant patent" system and we are also taking steps to implement the Madrid Protocol in the coming years, IP Australia's rich experience in conducting substantive patent examination and establishing an international trade mark registration system under the Madrid Protocol would be invaluable to us. The signing of the MOU will strengthen the working relationship and foster the collaboration between us and IP Australia in various areas of

common interest."

The IPD has been taking a wide range of measures to promote IP commercialisation and IP trading in Hong Kong, and to enhance Hong Kong's position as an IP trading hub in the Asia-Pacific region. The IPD has also been sparing no efforts in enhancing the IP regime of Hong Kong to meet its socio-economic needs.

Recognising the important role of IP in promoting creativity and technological innovation and driving economic growth, Hong Kong and Australia both have robust IP protection regimes and comprehensive measures to support IP utilisation. As Hong Kong and Australia are both members of the IP Rights Experts Group of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the IPD and IP Australia have a long history of collaboration on the patent and trade mark fronts. The MOU consolidates the foundation for such co-operation between the two places and takes such co-operation to new heights.

Videos from public help EPD make successful prosecutions against illegal construction waste disposal

A villager of Kar Wo Lei Tsuen in Tuen Mun, using videos captured by a security monitoring system at the village, reported cases of two dump truck drivers illegally depositing mud debris near the village to the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). The dump truck drivers together with the relevant contractor were fined a total of \$36,000 at Fanling Magistrates' Courts today (March 26) for contravening the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO).

In November last year, the EPD received the videos from the villager reporting that some people had unloaded mud debris from dump trucks on government land in Kar Wo Lei Tsuen in Tuen Mun, posing danger and inconvenience to pedestrians and causing environmental hygiene problems. The department successfully traced the dump truck drivers involved in the two cases of illegal construction waste disposal, and the contractor who hired them, based on the dump trucks' number plates captured by the videos and testimony provided by the villager. The department instigated prosecutions against the persons involved in accordance with the WDO after collecting evidence.

The EPD spokesman reminded contractors and members of the transportation sector that they must properly deliver construction waste as well as commercial and industrial (C&I) waste to the government waste management facilities in accordance with the law. Otherwise, they could be prosecuted. Under the WDO, first-time offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and six months' imprisonment. A maximum fine of \$500,000 and six months'

imprisonment may be imposed on second or subsequent convictions.

The spokesman urged members of the public to make a report to the department if they witness any illegal disposal of construction waste as well as C&I waste. They can record videos or take photos and call the EPD hotline at 2838 3111.

Public library opening hours for Easter and Ching Ming Festival

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (March 26) that all public libraries will be closed on Good Friday (April 19), while Students' Study Rooms will be open from 8am to 9.30pm.

Apart from individual libraries' closing days, public library opening hours on the Ching Ming Festival (April 5), the day following Good Friday (April 20) and Easter Monday (April 22) will be the same as on other public holidays.

Moreover, computer system maintenance work will be carried out from 8am to 11.59pm on April 19. The following services will be suspended during the period:

- library mobile app services and Internet and telephone renewal services;
- other online library services, including the library catalogue, borrowers' record enquiries, reservation of library materials and Internet and Digital Service Workstations, the Multimedia Information System and electronic resources (e-Books and e-Databases); and
- self-service library stations (readers can still return library materials during the period, while the loan record will be updated on the next working day).

Details can be obtained from notices posted at all public libraries and the website at www.hkpl.gov.hk/en/library-notices/library-notices-list.html. For enquiries, please call 2921 0208.

Red flags hoisted at Stanley Main

Beach and Big Wave Bay Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (March 26) that due to big waves, red flags have been hoisted at Stanley Main Beach and Big Wave Bay Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at these beaches.