

Import of poultry meat and products from Shuangqing District, Shaoyang City in Hunan Province, suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (February 3) that in view of a notification from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 sub-type avian influenza in Shuangqing District, Shaoyang City in Hunan Province, it has followed the existing approach for control of highly pathogenic avian influenza and taken recommendations from the World Organisation for Animal Health into account to suspend the import of poultry and poultry products, including poultry eggs, from an area within a radius of three kilometres from the said place for a period of 90 days, and from an area within a radius of 13km for 21 days, with immediate effect for the protection of public health in Hong Kong.

A spokesman for the CFS said that according to information from the General Administration of Customs, the outbreak does not affect any registered Mainland poultry farms that export to Hong Kong. No registered poultry meat or poultry egg processing plants are currently situated within the import restriction zone concerned.

The CFS will closely monitor the latest developments of the avian influenza case in the area and take appropriate follow-up action as necessary.

Labour Department invites applications for appointment as approved assessors

The Labour Department (LD) invites applications from eligible persons for appointment as approved assessors to conduct productivity assessments for employees with disabilities under the Minimum Wage Ordinance (Cap.608) (MWO). Applications will be accepted from today (February 3) until February 24 (Monday).

In accordance with the MWO, employees with disabilities and able-bodied employees are both protected by the Statutory Minimum Wage. A special arrangement is also provided under the MWO so that employees with disabilities whose productivity may be impaired by their disabilities have the right to undergo a productivity assessment and be remunerated at a rate commensurate with their productivity. The right to invoke a productivity assessment, which should be conducted by approved assessors, is solely vested

in employees with disabilities.

The Minimum Wage (Criteria for Approved Assessors) Notice (Cap.608A) specifies that approved assessors should be registered occupational therapists, registered physiotherapists, registered social workers or vocational rehabilitation practitioners with the requisite years of experience in the provision of vocational rehabilitation or other services in relation to employment of persons with disabilities.

Eligible applicants who have satisfactorily completed the training arranged by the LD will be appointed as approved assessors. Information of approved assessors will be included in the register of approved assessors. Employees with disabilities who decide to undergo a productivity assessment may select and contact approved assessors from the register to directly arrange for the assessment. An allowance of \$2,800 will be made to an approved assessor upon the completion of a productivity assessment and the required administrative procedures on or after May 1.

Details of the application including the criteria for approved assessors, application forms and notes for applicants are available on the LD homepage (www.labour.gov.hk). For enquiries, please call 2852 3816.

[Hong Kong showcased in Sydney Lunar Festival Dragon Boat Races \(with photos\)](#)

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Sydney (HKETO) showcased Hong Kong at the Sydney Lunar Festival Dragon Boat Races held in Sydney, Australia, on February 1 and 2.

Cheered on by spectators, the Hong Kong Team organised by the HKETO won the City of Sydney Sponsors Cup in the Social Category races on February 2.

During the two-day dragon boat races at Darling Harbour, the HKETO also set up a marquee where a lot of people learned more about Hong Kong.

Featuring fabrics printed with images of the world-renowned Hong Kong skyline and colourful photos of various large-scale international sports events held in the city, the marquee presented Hong Kong as not only a cosmopolitan city but also a sports hub.

Available at the marquee were various pamphlets about the latest developments of Hong Kong such as those on the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Hong Kong-Australia Free Trade Agreement. Also well received were souvenirs promoting Hong Kong's green living and Hong Kong

branding.

Representatives from the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Tourism Board in Sydney also participated by distributing leaflets on Hong Kong's trade events and travellers' guides as well as providing information to visitors at the marquee.

A spokesman for the HKETO said today (February 3) that despite the unprecedented challenges Hong Kong has experienced in the past six months, the city's fundamentals remain strong.

"We are confident that Hong Kong will bounce back strong. The city is fully switched on to the opportunities ahead as a free, open and welcoming society in the heart of Asia," the spokesman said.

The Sydney Lunar Festival is Sydney's largest Lunar New Year event organised by the City of Sydney, and is the largest celebration of the Lunar New Year outside Asia. During this year's festival, running from January 25 to February 9, various events including a lunar lantern display, dragon boat races and cultural performances are being held.

The Dragon Boat Races at Cockle Bay in Sydney's Darling Harbour were a highlight of the festival. The two-day regatta, with more than 3 000 paddlers competing, is the biggest dragon boat event in the southern hemisphere. The Hong Kong Team organised by the HKETO competed in the Social Category of the races on February 2 and won the City of Sydney Sponsors Cup. Meanwhile, three races were named the Hong Kong Connect Cup, the Hong Kong Excel Cup and the Hong Kong Super Cup with trophies presented by the Director of the HKETO, Mr Raymond Fan.

"This festive event has brought a lot of joy and excitement to the Sydney community and we are delighted to be part of it once again," the HKETO spokesman said.

"To share the joy of the Lunar New Year with members of the public in Sydney, the HKETO also displayed Hong Kong-themed banners with Lunar New Year greeting messages in some key city locations of Sydney during the Lunar New Year period," the spokesman added.





Liquor Licensing Board open hearing

cancelled

The following is issued on behalf of the Liquor Licensing Board:

To reduce the risk of the spread of the novel coronavirus in the community, the Liquor Licensing Board open hearing originally scheduled for tomorrow (February 4) has been cancelled. Further arrangements will be made for the affected open hearing cases.

Nominations open for Best Landscape Award for Private Property Development 2020

To promote greening, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is holding the Best Landscape Award for Private Property Development 2020 to commend private property developments that excel in landscape design and horticultural maintenance. Nominations for the competition are open until April 15. Application is free of charge.

The award aims to bring about sustained environmental improvements in private property developments and encourage private bodies to incorporate more quality green elements into the planning and management of horticultural projects for the benefit of such developments.

The entry must be situated within Hong Kong and be managed, designed or built by a private body. The landscape greening areas of the entry must be for communal use or accessible by the public or residents. Entries may be nominated by the developer, management company, design company, owners' organisation, landscape or horticultural company of the property with prior consent from the owners' representative group of the property concerned.

The award is presented in five categories. Details are as follows:

Domestic property:

- (1) Large-scale Domestic Property (with a site area of 20 000 square metres or above)
- (2) Medium-scale Domestic Property (with a site area from 2 000 sq m to below 20 000 sq m)
- (3) Small-scale Domestic Property (with a site area under 2 000 sq m)

Non-domestic property (such as hotels, shopping malls, commercial buildings,

schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (private premises) and private schools):

(4) Large-scale Non-domestic Property (with a gross floor area of 40 000 sq m or above)

(5) Small and Medium-scale Non-domestic Property (with a gross floor area under 40 000 sq m)

Each category is divided into three groups according to the age of the property.

i) Properties below six years of age

ii) Properties between six and below 21 years of age

iii) Properties 21 years of age or above

Completed nomination forms together with all necessary documents must reach the Secretariat of the Best Landscape Award for Private Property Development 2020 (11/F, Leisure and Cultural Services Headquarters, 1-3 Pai Tau Street, Sha Tin) on or before April 15 (no later than 5pm for submission in person; for postal submission, the date of postmark will be taken as the date of receipt).

The prospectus and nomination form can be downloaded from the LCSD webpage at www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/green/property/index.html. For enquiries, please call 2601 8026.

The Best Landscape Award for Private Property Development 2020 is organised by the LCSD and co-organised by the Home Affairs Department, the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects, the Institute of Horticulture (Hong Kong), the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, the Professional Green Building Council and the Hong Kong Association of Property Management Companies.