

Persons in custody at Stanley Prison attain good examination results (with photos)

One hundred and one persons in custody at Stanley Prison of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) were presented with educational certificates at a ceremony today (January 22) in recognition of their continuous efforts in pursuing further studies.

Today's 101 awardees passed 148 papers, achieving a total of 121 distinctions and credits and obtaining 726 university credit points. Among the awardees, two persons in custody attained a Bachelor of Business Administration from the Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK).

In 2019, a total of 248 persons in custody at Stanley Prison passed 384 papers of various academic courses and public examinations organised by the OUHK, the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Subjects taken included languages, English for business, business calculations, business administration as well as bookkeeping and accounting.

Officiating at the ceremony, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Yan Chai Hospital (YCH), Mr Vincent Wong, said that the CSD has long been committed to providing education to young persons in custody and encouraging adult persons in custody to pursue continuing studies after work. In addition to custodial work, the CSD conducts a variety of rehabilitation programmes in collaboration with community members and non-governmental organisations, and reforms persons in custody through education and vocational training. With the support of the CSD, persons in custody can turn over a new leaf and equip themselves for their reintegration into society. YCH has been dedicated to providing diverse community services and support for CSD rehabilitation work by establishing the Yan Chai MY Rehabilitation Foundation. YCH has also been subsidising the production of the TV programme "Knowing More About Hong Kong Correctional Services" and the TV variety show "Support Offender Rehabilitation for a Safer and More Inclusive Society", as well as arranging students from YCH schools to participate in the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project. In the future, YCH will continue to support the rehabilitation work of the CSD with a view to building a safer and harmonious society in a collaborative way.

At the ceremony, two representatives of persons in custody shared their rehabilitation experience and expressed gratitude for their families' support. A band formed by persons in custody at Stanley Prison sang during the ceremony, while CSD staff and persons in custody also performed a hip-hop dance.



Hong Kong Customs makes first-ever detection of counterfeit goods sales by counterfeiting syndicate in name of

online shopping agent (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs conducted an operation on January 20 to crack down on a counterfeiting syndicate involved in the sale of counterfeit goods on online platforms in the name of a shopping agent. In the first case of its kind, Customs seized about 1 100 items of suspected counterfeit goods with an estimated market value of about \$1.1 million.

Customs earlier received complaints alleging that suspected counterfeit goods were put on sale online in the name of a shopping agent. Through a big-data analytics system, Customs officers found that a counterfeiting syndicate set up multiple accounts on a common social media platform, and solicited business in the name of shopping agent and by promotion online. Upon receiving orders, the counterfeiting syndicate would ask the buyers to transfer money to designated bank accounts. The suspected counterfeit goods would then be packaged in a storage centre and delivered to buyers via courier.

After an in-depth investigation with the assistance of trademark owners, Customs officers took enforcement action on January 20 and raided a storage and packaging centre in Kwai Chung, where the batch of suspected counterfeit goods including handbags, clothing and shoes were seized.

During the operation, one man and four women, aged between 23 and 56, were arrested.

An investigation is ongoing.

Customs appeals to consumers to procure goods offered by reputable shops and websites with favourable comments and to check with the trademark owners or authorised agents if the authenticity of a product is in doubt.

Under the Trade Descriptions Ordinance, any person who sells or possesses for sale any goods with a forged trademark commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for five years.

Members of the public may report any suspected infringement activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



Man holding charged with murder

Police today (January 22) laid a holding charge against a 50-year-old man with one count of murder.

The 50-year-old man surrendered to Wan Chai Police Station yesterday afternoon (January 21). He was in suspected connection with a murder case happened in Tsim Sha Tsui on August 4, 2009 in which a 41-year-old man died.

At about 4am on August 4, 2009, Police received a report that the 41-year-old man was knocked down by a private car after he got out of his own vehicle parked outside a hotel on Mody Road. Three men who armed with knives then got out of the private car and attacked the 41-year-old man afterwards. Sustaining serious chop wounds, the man was sent to Queen Elizabeth Hospital and was later certified dead.

The case will be mentioned at Eastern Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (January 23).

In addition, four male arrestees who were in connection with the case were convicted for murder or manslaughter at the High Court in 2011.

Government maps out pest control work for the year (with photo)

The inter-departmental Pest Control Steering Committee held a meeting today (January 22) to map out the work plan and targets for this year. The Committee reviewed the effectiveness of enhanced anti-rodent and anti-mosquito work of various departments as well as the promotion and application of technology. Various departments agreed to carry out pest control work in

areas under their purview according to the work plan in the coming year.

Various departments briefed the meeting on the progress of the strengthened anti-rodent work in all 18 districts. This included enforcement operations against irregularities of food premises such as food preparation in back alleys by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), stepping up cleaning and pest control measures in 52 priority public rental housing (PRH) estates from June to November last year by the Housing Authority (HA) and another 37 priority PRH estates had been selected in last December, and completion of improvement works in back alleys in various districts by the Highways Department (HyD) after taking the community's feedback into account.

An international rodent infestation expert recommended by the World Health Organization inspected anti-rodent work in Hong Kong last November, and had proposed a series of concrete measures to enhance the effectiveness of this work. The measures include using more than one kind of bait at the same time, placing kill traps in suitable environments and rotating rodenticides with a view to reducing rodents' ability to develop resistance. In particular, the expert pointed out the importance of increasing public participation in anti-rodent work, for example, the results would be more significant when members of the public are motivated to carry out anti-rodent work in households.

As for the targets of the anti-rodent work this year, the Government will strengthen prevention of rodent infestation, further step up anti-rodent work by making reference to the advice of the international expert, and eliminate the three survival conditions of rodents – namely food, harbourage and passages – by improving the condition of environmental hygiene. Specifically, the Committee expects a fewer number of complaints related to rodents than last year as well as higher numbers of rodents caught and rodent holes blocked than last year, the HA will continue to identify priority PRH estates and to implement additional measures in those estates, the HyD is to complete around 100 improvement work items subject to actual needs and conditions, and the FEHD is to use quantitative data extensively in anti-rodent work.

As regards to the monitoring of rodent activities, the FEHD is preparing the use of thermal imaging cameras with artificial intelligence analytical functions to assess the effectiveness of anti-rodent work. Initial test results have shown that thermal imaging cameras can effectively monitor rodent activities. The data collected can be used to compare the rodent infestation situation before and after anti-rodent operations. The technology can also be used to identify rodents' entry points, travel routes and areas they frequently visit so that rodenticides and trapping devices can be placed in a more effective manner and more targeted rodent control measures can be implemented.

Meanwhile, the FEHD conducted a baseline study in Kowloon City District this month and installed thermal imaging cameras in designated areas to measure the extent of rodent activities and the number of rodents. After

further trials, the FEHD will extend the baseline study to all districts in Hong Kong to establish a quantifying new rodent infestation surveillance mechanism with a view to replacing the current Rodent Infestation Rate which could only reflect the extensiveness of the problem by calculating the percentage of baits bitten. The new mechanism is to assess the effectiveness of anti-rodent work and quantify rodent infestation.

In respect of intensive anti-rodent operations conducted in public markets, the FEHD has adjusted its anti-rodent operations after making reference to the experience of trials conducted earlier in Lai Wan Market, Ap Lei Chau Market and Kam Tin Market as well as the views of the international rodent infestation expert. The FEHD will carry out another round of anti-rodent operations in three additional public markets in February. The FEHD will assess the effectiveness of the operations in June and implement effective modus operandi in other markets.

As regards to anti-mosquito work, the Government will consolidate the results achieved last year including the number of local dengue fever cases, which dropped from 29 in 2018 to one last year, and the ovitrap index for *Aedes albopictus* that was maintained at a low level throughout the year. Specifically, the number of areas with Area Ovitrap Index (AOI) exceeding 40 per cent dropped from three in 2018 to one last year and the number of areas with AOI exceeding the alert level of 20 per cent for two months or more dropped from six in 2018 to four last year.

The Government will continue to strengthen prevention, co-ordination and surveillance. The targets for the coming year include: continue to prevent the occurrence of local dengue fever cases; further reduce AOI (namely to maintain no more than two areas with AOI exceeding the alert level of 20 per cent for two months or more, and no area with AOI exceeding 40 per cent); and quantify the number of adult mosquitoes by the FEHD this year. By releasing the adult mosquito density index, the FEHD hopes to relax the limitation of the current AOI, which can only reflect the distribution of *Aedes albopictus*. The data of the adult mosquito density index can better reflect the effectiveness of mosquito control work and facilitate various departments to formulate more targeted anti-mosquito work. As such, the FEHD conducted field trials on a new design ovitrap from June to November last year and has finalised the design. To replace the existing ovitraps, around 5 000 new-design ovitraps will be installed over the territory in March 2020.

Furthermore, in view of the significant effectiveness of a new type of mosquito trap trialed by various departments since last September, departments will use the traps extensively. Around 2 700 new mosquito traps will be put in place in areas under their purview before March this year with a view to effectively preventing mosquito breeding before the onset of the rainy season. Various departments will continue to adopt last year's modus operandi of All-out Anti-mosquito Operations, eliminate breeding grounds early and commence fogging operations simultaneously until the end of the rainy season.

As prevention measures, the Government will commence mosquito control

work early this year and will continue to strengthen the work in three aspects, namely prevention, co-ordination and surveillance. In areas where the problem of mosquitoes are more severe, the Government will carry out timely mosquito control work through inter-departmental co-ordination. Furthermore, the Government will continue to make use of technology to enhance the effectiveness of mosquito prevention and control work.

Representatives from three bureaux, 20 departments and one organisation attended today's meeting.



[Implementation of toll-free policy for small passenger vehicles using Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Main Bridge during Lunar New Year holiday](#)

The Transport Department (TD) announced today (January 22) that according to a notification from the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) Authority, the toll-free policy for small passenger vehicles will be implemented on the HZMB for seven consecutive days from 0.00am on January 24 to midnight on January 30. During the period, small passenger vehicles travelling to or from the Zhuhai or Macao Ports via the Toll Plaza of the HZMB will not be required to pay the toll of RMB150, while the arrangements for small passenger vehicles to pass through the electronic toll lanes (i.e. non-stop) and manual toll lanes (i.e. stop to pay) will remain unchanged. Small passenger vehicles are passenger-carrying vehicles with seven seats or fewer (including the driver's seat), i.e. private cars and hire cars.

The HZMB Main Bridge is located within Mainland waters and the Toll Plaza is also situated in the Mainland. According to the territoriality principle, the HZMB Authority, which is responsible for the operation of the Main Bridge, will implement the Mainland's nationwide toll-free policy on small passenger vehicles during the Lunar New Year holiday (from January 24 to 30).

The TD spokesman reminded members of the public that if they wish to drive their private cars going to or returning from Zhuhai or Macao, the private car must possess a relevant HZMB private car quota allotment, and licences and permits issued by the three governments, or have completed registration for the HZMB Macao Port Park-and-Ride Scheme and obtained a valid permit, including reserving to use the East Car Park of the HZMB Frontier Post at Macao Port.