

Research Grants Council to present public lecture on dementia on December 7

The following is issued on behalf of the University Grants Committee:

The Research Grants Council (RGC) will present its third public lecture this year under the theme "Challenge of Population Ageing: Dementia" on December 7 (Saturday) at the Hong Kong Central Library.

The RGC has invited Professor of the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Professor Timothy Kwok, and Associate Professor of the Department of Social Work of the Hong Kong Baptist University, Dr Young Kim-wan, to share their research findings and knowledge with the public. Details are as follows:

Time: 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre, G/F, Hong Kong Central Library

Language: Cantonese

Admission is free and on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dementia is a major cause of dependency in old age. It can be delayed or prevented by physical and social activities and a healthy diet. Mind and body exercises, e.g. Tai Chi and cognitive training can improve cognitive functions in elderly people. Vitamin B12 deficiency can contribute to dementia, but its supplement in those without such deficiency does not improve cognitive functions. Folic acid supplements in combination with vitamin B12 may prevent cognitive decline, but only in those who can metabolise it, and it may interfere with the actions of aspirin. Professor Kwok will deliver a talk entitled "Prevention of dementia" to the public.

There are around 100 000 elderly people with dementia in Hong Kong, and the number is expected to escalate to 290 000 by the year 2036. Currently, pharmacological treatments for dementia have been found to have a minimal effect in arresting cognitive decline and loss of memory. On the other hand, cognitive stimulation therapy has been developed in the United Kingdom and implemented successfully across different cultures and societies, including Hong Kong. Local research evidence supports the idea that cognitive stimulation therapy is effective in improving cognitive functions of elderly people with mild to moderate dementia. In his talk entitled "The positive effects of cognitive stimulation therapy for elderly with dementia", Dr Young will introduce cognitive stimulation therapy in local practice.

The public lectures of the RGC aim at arousing public interest in local research developments. Since 2009, the RGC has invited numerous leading scholars to speak at these lectures. For enquiries, please call 2524 3987 or visit the University Grants Committee webpage

Appointments to Social Welfare Advisory Committee announced

The Government today (November 29) announced the appointment of five new members and re-appointment of five incumbent members to the Social Welfare Advisory Committee (SWAC) for a term of two years with effect from December 1.

The five new members are Mr Frederick Lai Wing-hoi, Professor Petrus Ng Yat-nam, Dr Pan Pey-chyou, Dr Ricky Szeto Wing-fu and Professor Frances Wong Kam-yuet.

Mr Lai is the Director of the Social Work Services Division of Caritas – Hong Kong. He is also a member of the Social Work Training Fund Committee and the Advisory Committee on Mental Health.

Professor Ng is the Head and Professor of the Department of Social Work of Hong Kong Baptist University. He is also a member of the Advisory Committee on Social Work Training and Manpower Planning.

Dr Pan is the Honorary Consultant in Psychiatry of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital. He is also a member of the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Advisory Committee.

Dr Szeto is the General Manager and Executive Director of a private company. He is also a member of the Lump Sum Grant Steering Committee, the Advisory Committee on Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities and the Employees Compensation Assistance Fund Board.

Professor Wong is a Professor of the School of Nursing at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. She is also a member of the Steering Committee on Primary Healthcare Development and the Nursing Council of Hong Kong.

The five re-appointed incumbent members are Mr Armstrong Lee Hon-cheung, Ms Anthea Lo Wing-sze, Dr Gary Ng Ka-wing, Ms Cindy Pun Siu-fung and Dr Janice Tsang Wing-hang.

The Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Dr Law Chi-kwong, welcomed the appointments and thanked the five outgoing members, Mr Ip Wai-ming, Dr Annissa Lui Wai-ling, Mr Daryl Ng Win-kong, Professor Steven Ngai Sek-yum and Dr Loretta Yam Yin-chun, for their valuable contributions to the SWAC.

The SWAC reviews social welfare services from time to time and advises the Government on all matters of social welfare policy.

The membership list of the SWAC with effect from December 1, 2019 is as follows:

Chairman

Mr Lester Garson Huang

Non-official members

Dr Bai Xue

Ms Sylvia Chan May-kuen

Dr Gary Cheng Faat-ting

Miss Cheung Sze-wing

Mr Manohar Thakurdas Chugh

Mr Andy Ho Wing-cheong

Mr Anthony Kwan Wai-ming

Mr Frederick Lai Wing-hoi

Dr Lam James Joseph

Mr Armstrong Lee Hon-cheung

Ms Anthea Lo Wing-sze

Dr Gary Ng Ka-wing

Professor Petrus Ng Yat-nam

Dr Pan Pey-chyou

Ms Cindy Pun Siu-fung

Dr Ricky Szeto Wing-fu

Dr Janice Tsang Wing-hang

Ms Eva Wong Ching-hung

Professor Frances Wong Kam-yuet

Mr Anthony Wong Kin-wai

Ms Amarantha Yip Yun-wan

Airmail services to Finland

Hongkong Post announced today (November 29) that, as advised by the postal administration of Finland, airmail services (including Speedpost) to Finland have resumed. However, due to the mail backlog situation in Finland, airmail services (including Speedpost) to Finland are still subject to delay.

Appointments to Property Management

Services Authority

The Government announced today (November 29) appointments to the Property Management Services Authority (PMSA).

The Chief Executive has re-appointed Mr Tony Tse Wai-chuen as the Chairperson of the PMSA, and has appointed Professor Eddie Hui Chi-man as the Vice-chairperson and Mr Chow Luen-kiu as a new member of the PMSA. In addition, 16 serving members have also been re-appointed. The appointments will take effect on December 1, 2019, for a period of three years.

The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Lau Kong-wah, welcomed the above appointments. He also thanked the outgoing Vice-chairperson, Mr Wong Kwok-hing, and member, Dr Jennifer Ng Chui-yiu, for their sterling contributions to the PMSA over their term.

The membership list of the PMSA with effect from December 1 is as follows:

Chairperson

Mr Tony Tse Wai-chuen

Vice-chairperson

Professor Eddie Hui Chi-man

Category I Persons (individuals who are engaged in property management services)

Mr Dick Kwok Ngok-chung

Mr Paul Ng Kwong-ming

Mr Ivan Tam Kwok-wing

Mr Justin Wong Fai-sing

Dr Yan Wai-kiu

Category II Persons (individuals, not being Category I persons, who, because of their experience in property management, general administration or consumer affairs, appear to the Chief Executive to have knowledge of property management services)

Dr Jason Chan Kai-yue

Ms Wendy Ng Wan-yee

Ms Annie Wong Pak-yan

Category III Persons (individuals, not being Category I persons or Category II persons, who appear to the Chief Executive to be suitable to be appointed as members of the PMSA)

Mr Chan Han-pan
Ms Cheng Lai-king
Mr Chow Luen-kiu
Mr Leung Man-kwong
Mr Lanny Tam
Mr Frankie Yick Chi-ming
Mr Yip Hing-kwok
Director of Housing or his representative
Director of Home Affairs or her representative

The PMSA is a body corporate established under the Property Management Services Ordinance (Cap. 626). Its principal functions are to regulate and control the provision of property management services in Hong Kong by the licensing of property management companies and property management practitioners; to promote the integrity, competence and professionalism of the profession of property management services; and to maintain and enhance the status of the profession of property management services.

Schedule for issuing press releases on statistical data

Following is a reminder of the press releases on statistical data to be issued between December 2019 and March 2020. The schedules for issuing press releases on statistical data in 2019 and 2020 were provided to the media in September 2018 and September 2019 respectively. No change has been made to the original schedule.

December 2019

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Date	Press Release
2	Retail sales statistics for October 2019
5	Statistics on vessels, port cargo and containers for third quarter 2019
9	Quarterly business receipts indices for service industries for third quarter 2019
10	Statistics on trade involving outward processing in the mainland of China for third quarter 2019

12	Construction output statistics for third quarter 2019
13	Index of industrial production and producer price index for the industrial sector for third quarter 2019
13	Gross National Income and external primary income flows for third quarter 2019
17	Unemployment and underemployment statistics for September – November 2019
17	Volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade for October 2019
19	Employment and vacancies statistics for September 2019
20	Consumer Price Index for November 2019
20	Chain volume measures of Gross Domestic Product by economic activity for third quarter 2019
20	Balance of Payments and International Investment Position statistics for third quarter 2019
27	Wage and payroll statistics for September 2019
30	External merchandise trade statistics for November 2019

January 2020

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Date	Press Release
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3	Retail sales statistics for November 2019
16	Volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade for November 2019
17	Business expectations for first quarter 2020
20	Unemployment and underemployment statistics for October – December 2019
21	Consumer Price Index for December 2019
30	External merchandise trade statistics for December 2019

February 2020

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Date	Press Release
3	Advance estimates on Gross Domestic Product for fourth quarter and the whole year of 2019 (Note)
4	Retail sales statistics for December 2019
5	Restaurant receipts and purchases statistics for fourth quarter 2019
18	Volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade for December 2019
18	Unemployment and underemployment statistics for November 2019 – January 2020
18	Year-end population for 2019
20	Consumer Price Index for January 2020
25	External merchandise trade statistics for January 2020
26	Revised figures on Gross Domestic Product for fourth quarter and the whole year of 2019 : data contained in the Budget supporting documents (Note)

March 2020

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Date	Press Release
2	Retail sales statistics for January 2020
3	Statistics on vessels, port cargo and containers for fourth quarter 2019
10	Quarterly business receipts indices for service industries for fourth quarter 2019
12	Construction output statistics for fourth quarter 2019
12	Statistics on trade involving outward processing in the mainland of China for fourth quarter 2019

13	Index of industrial production and producer price index for the industrial sector for fourth quarter 2019
16	Gross National Income and external primary income flows for fourth quarter 2019
17	Unemployment and underemployment statistics for December 2019 – February 2020
19	Volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade for January 2020
19	Chain volume measures of Gross Domestic Product by economic activity for fourth quarter 2019
20	Employment and vacancies statistics for December 2019
23	Balance of Payments and International Investment Position statistics for fourth quarter 2019
23	Consumer Price Index for February 2020
26	External merchandise trade statistics for February 2020
26	Wage and payroll statistics for December 2019
31	Retail sales statistics for February 2020

Note: The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) will issue press releases on quarterly advance estimates on Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The C&SD will compile and release revised figures on GDP in the "Gross Domestic Product (Quarterly) Report" when more data become available. The revised GDP figures for the fourth quarter and the whole year of 2019, together with other supporting materials, will also be released along with the Financial Secretary's "Budget Speech". According to the Financial Secretary's Office, the Budget is scheduled to be delivered on February 26, 2020. No separate press release will be issued by the C&SD in respect of the revised GDP figures.

The schedule for regular press releases in the other months of 2020 can be downloaded at the website of the Census and Statistics Department (www.censtatd.gov.hk/press_release/index.jsp).