

CS visits Southern District

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, visited the Marycove Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd (SGS) and two underprivileged elderly families this morning (January 28).

Established in 1968, the Marycove Center is a residential home subvented by the Social Welfare Department. With a residential quota of 90, it caters for girls aged from 12 to 18 in need. The Marycove School was set up under the Center in the same year and is subvented by the Education Bureau. It was classified as a school for social development in July 1997.

Accompanied by the District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western, Southern and Islands), Mr Lam Ding-fung, Mr Cheung first visited the Marycove Center in Wong Chuk Hang. He was given a briefing on the services provided by the Center by SGS's Director, Sister Bernadette Yuen; Center's Superintendent, Ms Eliza Poon; and the Marycove School's Principal, Mr Joseph Choy.

He then toured the school and the Center's residential facilities. After being shown around by residents, he joined them for a tea session and music performance. Mr Cheung praised the girls for their outstanding performance. He also spoke highly of the professional services offered by staff of the Center and encouraged them to continue supporting the girls, preparing them for integration into society and enabling them to unleash their potential in full.

Mr Cheung then proceeded to visit two elderly families at Yue Kwong Chuen in Aberdeen to find out more about their daily living and brought them warm clothing and health products as gifts. He wished them happiness and good health in the year ahead.

He said that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is committed to improving people's livelihood and actively promoting the policy of according priority to the provision of home care and community care, supplemented by residential care, so that the elderly can enjoy their life in environments familiar to them.

Auction of personalised vehicle registration marks on February 23

The Transport Department (TD) today (January 28) announced that the next auction of personalised vehicle registration marks (PVRMs) will be held on

February 23 (Saturday), at Meeting Room S421, L4, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wan Chai.

"A total of 247 approved PVRMs will be put up for public auction. A list of the marks was posted on the department's website, www.td.gov.hk, today," a department spokesman said.

The reserve price of all these marks is \$5,000. Applicants who have paid a deposit of \$5,000 should also participate in the bidding (including the first bid at the reserve price). Otherwise, the PVRM concerned may be sold to another bidder at the reserve price.

People who wish to participate in the bidding at the auction should take note of the following important points:

- (i) Paddle bidding will be used at this auction;
- (ii) The display of a PVRM on a motor vehicle should be in compliance with the requirements stipulated in Schedule 4 of the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) Regulations;
- (iii) Any change to the arrangement of letters, numerals and blank spaces of a PVRM, i.e. single and two rows as auctioned, will not be allowed;
- (iv) Purchasers must make payment of the purchase price through the Easy Pay System (EPS), or by crossed cheque and complete the Memorandum of Sale of PVRM immediately after the bidding for the PVRM concerned. Subsequent alteration of the particulars in the memorandum will not be permitted. For an auctioned mark paid for by cheque, the first three working days after the date of auction will be required for cheque clearance confirmation before processing of the application for mark assignment can be completed; and
- (v) The purchaser shall, within 12 months after the date of auction, apply to the Commissioner for Transport for the PVRM to be assigned to a motor vehicle registered in the name of the purchaser. If the purchaser fails to assign the PVRM within 12 months, allocation of the PVRM will be cancelled and arranged for re-allocation in accordance with the statutory provision without prior notice to the purchaser.

"Upon completion of the Memorandum of Sale of PVRM, the purchaser will be issued a receipt and a Certificate of Allocation of Personalised Registration Mark. The Certificate of Allocation will serve to prove the holdership of the PVRM. Potential buyers of vehicles bearing a PVRM should check the Certificate of Allocation with the sellers and pay attention to the details therein. For transfer of vehicle ownership, this certificate together with other required documents should be sent to the TD for processing," the spokesman said.

For other auction details, please refer to the Guidance Notes – Auction of PVRM, which is available at the department's licensing offices or can be downloaded from its website, www.td.gov.hk.

“Hong Kong Guide” and “e-HongKongGuide” 2019 edition published (with photos)

The "Hong Kong Guide" 2019 edition produced by the Lands Department (LandsD) went on sale today (January 28). The new "e-HongKongGuide", an electronic map book, is also now available online.

The new 432-page "Hong Kong Guide" provides detailed maps of Hong Kong with indexes for streets, places and villages, estates and buildings, schools, public services, and leisure and cultural facilities, as well as information on public transportation. The streets and places and villages indexes also serve as gazetteers for names of streets and geographical places in Hong Kong.

Under the theme "Guide of Hearts", the "Hong Kong Guide" 2019 aims at promoting enhanced care for youths and social inclusion. It contains stories from the BiciLine Cycling Eco-Tourism Social Enterprise of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and WEDO GLOBAL, two social enterprises devoted to organising local guided tours, and which have also designed various tour routes through the territory's streets and alleys.

A spokesman for the LandsD said, "The 'Hong Kong Guide' not only enables its readers to explore the beautiful landscape and ecological environment of the city, it also allows them to learn more about the daily lives and cultural traits of ethnic minorities in Hong Kong.

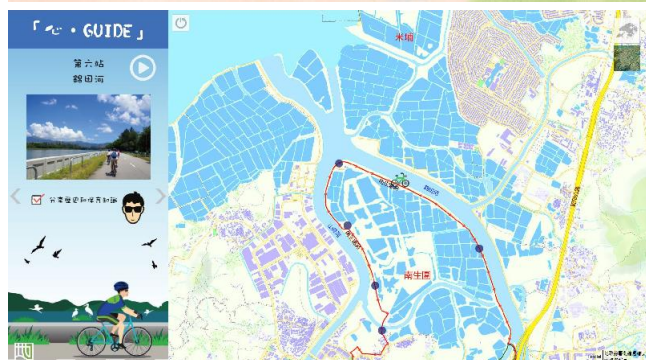
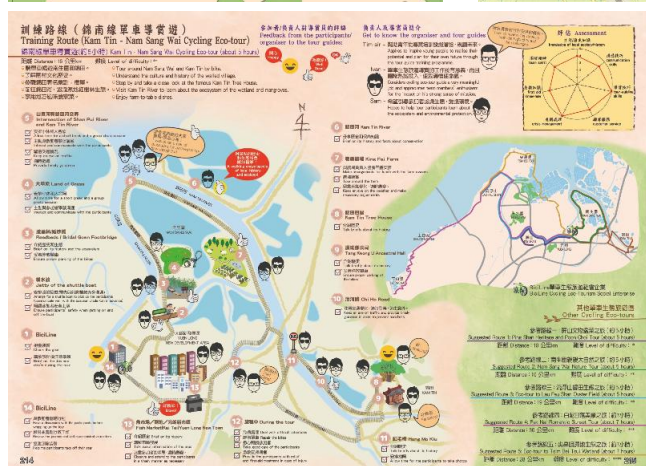
"We hope this year's theme will inspire readers to discover the unique features and fascinating aspects of our streets and places, as well as interesting stories about Hong Kong," the spokesman added.

The "e-HongKongGuide" 2019 edition, an electronic version of the "Hong Kong Guide", is also available online for browsing and free download at the LandsD's website (www.landsd.gov.hk/mapping/en/download/ehkg.htm).

The "e-HongKongGuide" is a collection of maps in GeoPDF format. It can also be read by different applications on desktop computers and mobile devices in an offline mode. By using free tools available on the web, users can read co-ordinates, track positions using a GPS device, search co-ordinates, search text and information, add personalised images and information, and share with friends.

The "Hong Kong Guide" 2019 edition, priced at \$83, is available at all sales outlets of the LandsD's Survey and Mapping Office (SMO), six post offices (the General Post Office, Kowloon Central Post Office, Tsim Sha Tsui

Post Office, Mong Kok Post Office, Kwun Tong Post Office and Tuen Mun Central Post Office), designated local bookstores and the SMO's online map shop (www.hkmapservice.gov.hk). Information on the SMO's sales outlets is available at www.landsd.gov.hk/mapping/en/pro&ser/outlet.htm. For enquiries, please call 2231 3187.



Partnership Research Programme and Innovation and Technology Support Programme open for applications

The Innovation and Technology Commission today (January 28) launched the Partnership Research Programme (PRP) to support research and development (R&D) projects undertaken by private companies in collaboration with local universities and public research institutions. Applications for the PRP are open all year round.

To achieve synergy and enhance flexibility, the PRP consolidates the University-Industry Collaboration Programme (UICP) and the collaborative stream of the Innovation and Technology Support Programme (ITSP) under a single programme. The PRP will continue to provide matching funding support for approved projects. The maximum project duration is three years.

The Commission is also inviting funding applications for platform and seed projects under the ITSP from today until April 26. Platform projects refer to applied R&D projects that are industry-oriented and have potential for commercialisation, while seed projects refer to exploratory and forward-looking projects. From this year onwards, applications for the ITSP will be invited once a year.

Further information on the PRP and ITSP is available on the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) website (www.itf.gov.hk). For enquiries, please contact the ITF Secretariat (Tel: 3655 5678; email: enquiry@itf.gov.hk).

Key statistics on service demand of A&E Departments and occupancy rates in public hospitals

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

During the winter surge, the Hospital Authority is closely monitoring the service demand of Accident and Emergency Departments and the occupancy rate in public hospitals. Key service statistics are being issued daily for public information. Details are in the appended table.