

## S for IT visits Tsuen Wan District (with photos)

The Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Mr Nicholas W Yang, paid a visit to elderly persons receiving community care services, met with District Council members and chatted with start-ups at a co-working space, Smart-Space 8, during his visit to Tsuen Wan District today (January 15).

Mr Yang started his visit at Yan Chai Hospital Chan Feng Men Ling Integrated Community Development Centre. Joining him were the Vice Chairman of the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC), Mr Wong Wai-kit, and the District Officer (Tsuen Wan), Miss Jenny Yip. The centre offers various day care services and training for the elderly. In addition to watching elderly persons receiving rehabilitation treatment like hand-eye co-ordination training drills, Mr Yang also participated in an agility training activity.

As the Chinese New Year is around the corner, Mr Yang extended his regards to the elderly and wished them good health and happiness in the year ahead. Mr Yang also expressed his festive-season care by offering them scarves and beanies made with an innovative spinning technique developed by the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel. Blended with yak yarn, the knitwear has a soft hand feel and better air permeability and heat retention.

The Yan Chai Hospital Social Services Department received funding from the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer under the ICT Outreach Programme for the Elderly to provide reminiscence therapy with the aid of virtual reality games and cognitive training for the elderly. Mr Yang encouraged organisations to utilise government digital inclusion initiatives to enhance the quality of life for the elderly and promote healthy ageing.

Mr Yang then met with members of the TWDC to exchange views on innovation and technology matters and district affairs.

The last stop of the district visit was Smart-Space 8, operated by Cyberport under the Space Sharing Scheme for Youth. It is also Cyberport's first off-site co-working space outside its Pok Fu Lam campus. Occupying an area of about 20 000 square feet, Smart-Space 8 is leased to young start-ups in digital technology at concessionary rent. In addition, Cyberport provides them with various training and support services in entrepreneurship. Mr Yang took the chance to meet and exchange views with these start-up teams in various fields including artificial intelligence, financial technology, e-sports, e-commerce and education technology.

Mr Yang said that with concerted efforts, Hong Kong's start-up ecosystem has been gaining momentum over the past few years. The number of start-ups reached 2 625 in 2018, up 18 per cent year on year. He added that he is glad that Cyberport has strengthened its public mission programmes with the

additional resources from the Government to provide more comprehensive support for start-ups. This includes raising the funding support under the Cyberport Incubation Programme from \$330,000 to \$500,000 and launching the Overseas/Mainland Market Development Support Scheme to offer a financial subsidy of \$200,000 to start-ups for conducting market research and promotion, participating in trade fairs outside Hong Kong and expanding into overseas markets.





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## Lands Department releases figures on registered lease modifications, land exchanges and private treaty grants in fourth quarter of 2018

The Lands Department (LandsD) announced today (January 15) that it registered 14 lease modifications and five land exchanges in the Land Registry during the quarter ending December 2018, of which six were modifications of a technical nature involving nil premium.

Among these 19 land transactions, seven are located on Hong Kong Island, five are in Kowloon and seven are in the New Territories. The transactions exclude Small House cases.

There were no private treaty grants registered during the quarter.

The above land transactions realised a total land premium of about \$16,800.74 million.

Transaction records of the lease modifications, land exchanges and private treaty grants, including those registered recently, are uploaded to the LandsD website ([www.landso.gov.hk](http://www.landso.gov.hk)) on a monthly basis. Details of the transactions may be obtained by searching the registered documents in the Land Registry.

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## Missing woman in Yau Ma Tei located

A woman who went missing in Yau Ma Tei was located.

Sin Kit-ying, aged 36, went missing after she left her residence on Lee Yip Street on January 12 night. Her family made a report to Police on January 13.

The woman was located on Lee Yip Street in Yau Ma Tei this morning (January 15). She sustained no injuries and no suspicious circumstances were detected.

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## January 2019 issue of “Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics” now available

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) published today (January 15) the January 2019 issue of the "Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics" (HKMDS).

Apart from providing up-to-date statistics, this issue also contains two feature articles entitled "Hong Kong's External Direct Investment Statistics, 2008 to 2017" and "Pattern of Smoking".

"Hong Kong's External Direct Investment Statistics, 2008 to 2017"

Hong Kong is an international financial centre and a premier business hub. It is also a gateway to the vast market of the mainland of China (the Mainland) as well as a platform for facilitating the Mainland enterprises to gain access to the global market. External direct investment (DI) between Hong Kong and the rest of the world, including the Mainland, is very sizable. Analysis of Hong Kong's DI statistics over the past years is useful in understanding the characteristics and trend of DI in Hong Kong.

This feature article presents the salient features of Hong Kong's DI statistics in the past decade.

For enquiries about this feature article, please contact the Balance of Payments Section, C&SD (Tel: 3903 7016; email: [di@censtatd.gov.hk](mailto:di@censtatd.gov.hk)).

"Pattern of Smoking"

The C&SD conducted a Thematic Household Survey on the pattern of smoking of the Hong Kong population aged 15 and over during June to September 2017 to

collect information on the number of smokers and their smoking pattern. This feature article briefly describes the major findings of the survey.

For enquiries about this feature article, please contact the Social Surveys Section, C&SD (Tel: 2887 0416; email: [thematic@censtatd.gov.hk](mailto:thematic@censtatd.gov.hk)).

Published in bilingual form, the HKMDS is a compact volume of official statistics containing about 140 tables. It collects up-to-date statistical series on various aspects of the social and economic situation of Hong Kong. Topics include population; labour; external trade; National Income and Balance of Payments; prices; business performance; energy; housing and property; government accounts, finance and insurance; and transport, communications and tourism. For selected key statistical items, over 20 charts depicting the annual trend in the past decade and quarterly or monthly trend in the recent two years are also available. Users can download the Digest free of charge at the website of the C&SD ([www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp460.jsp?productCode=B1010002](http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp460.jsp?productCode=B1010002)).

Enquiries about the contents of the Digest can be directed to the Statistical Information Services Section of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 4738; email: [gen-enquiry@censtatd.gov.hk](mailto:gen-enquiry@censtatd.gov.hk)).

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## **E. Tech Management (HK) Limited convicted of improper storage of chemical waste (with photo)**

A recycling site operated by E. Tech Management (HK) Limited at the EcoPark in Tuen Mun failed to store chemical waste properly and was convicted and fined \$19,000 at Fanling Magistrates' Courts today (January 15) for contravening the Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation.

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Environmental Protection Department (EPD) staff conducted a surprise inspection last August and found that the recycling site operated by E. Tech Management (HK) Limited at the EcoPark in Tuen Mun did not properly handle waste printed circuit boards (PCBs), which are classified as chemical waste. After investigation and evidence collection, it was confirmed that the recycling site concerned used non-compliant containers and failed to seal chemical waste properly. The chemical waste containers were not labelled and were stored in an improper place without displaying a warning sign. The department subsequently prosecuted E. Tech Management (HK) Limited for contravening the Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation.

The EPD spokesman explained that waste PCBs are chemical waste and, if not properly handled, will pollute the environment and pose a risk to the

health of relevant trade practitioners and the general public.

The EPD reminds operating companies of recycling sites that they should strictly comply with the relevant law on the control of chemical waste. They should register with the EPD in accordance with the law if they produce chemical waste. Chemical waste must be properly packaged, labelled and stored, as well as collected by licensed chemical waste collectors for delivery to licensed chemical waste disposal facilities for disposal. First-time offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and six months' imprisonment. For subsequent offences, offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$500,000 and two years' imprisonment.

The spokesman also reminded practitioners in the recycling industry that the disposal licensing control, import and export control and disposal bans at designated waste disposal facilities of regulated electrical and electronic equipment (REE) (including waste air-conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines, televisions, computers, printers, scanners and monitors) under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO) came into effect on December 31, 2018. Unless with exemptions, any person who is engaged in the storage, treatment, reprocessing or recycling (but not repair) of waste REE must obtain a waste disposal licence (e-WDL) issued by the EPD under the law. A permit issued by the EPD is also required for the import and export of waste REE.

