

Third quarter 2018 issue of the “Quarterly Supplement to Statistical Digest of the Services Sector” published

The third quarter 2018 issue of "Quarterly Supplement to Statistical Digest of the Services Sector" is published by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) today (December 28). This issue is now available for download free of charge at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp70.jsp?productCode=B1080008).

The services sector is the heart of Hong Kong's economy. Accurate and detailed statistics play an important role in support of the Government's initiatives on promoting the services sector. This issue of the Quarterly Supplement provides up-to-date quarterly statistics (from the second quarter of 2017 to the third quarter of 2018) for the more important statistical series on 14 major service industries/domains of Hong Kong.

Enquiries about this publication can be directed to the Logistics and Producer Prices Statistics Section of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 7257 or email: services@censtatd.gov.hk).

HK, Finland tax treaty in force

The Comprehensive Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement (CDTA) between Hong Kong and Finland will enter into force on December 30, a government spokesman said today (December 28).

The CDTA was signed in May this year. It will come into force on December 30, 2018 after the completion of ratification procedures on both sides. It will have effect in respect of Hong Kong tax for any year of assessment beginning on or after April 1, 2019.

Finland was the 50th largest trading partner of Hong Kong in 2017. The CDTA with Finland is the 40th CDTA signed by Hong Kong and the first one signed with a Nordic country. It will bring a greater degree of certainty on taxation liabilities for those who engage in cross-border business activities, and help promote bilateral trade and investment activities.

Recruitment under Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth Phase II starts today

The Government today (December 28) started the recruitment under the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth (MSSY) Phase II. The application period will close on January 28, 2019.

A spokesman for the Home Affairs Bureau said, "The Government strives to address young people's concerns about education, career pursuit and home ownership, and encourage their participation in politics as well as public policy discussion and debate. The Government will continue to create a favourable environment for young people to join different advisory committees under bureaux/departments. The MSSY has been regularised and two rounds of recruitment will be rolled out every year. The target is to increase, within the current-term Government, the overall ratio of youth members aged between 18 and 35 to 15 per cent."

The MSSY Phase I was open for recruitment in June 2018 and all the assessments of the 10 participating committees have been completed. Five of the 10 committees have already completed their appointment exercise and announced their appointments (list of appointees in Appendix), while the remaining five committees will complete their appointments by the first quarter of 2019 with relevant announcement to follow.

â€‹The MSSY Phase II opens for application today. The following 10 committees, which cover a wide spectrum of policy areas, will each offer two seats for application:

1. [Ping Wo Fund Advisory Committee](#);
2. [Commission on Poverty](#);
3. [Committee on the Promotion of Racial Harmony](#);
4. [Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS](#);
5. [Aviation Development and Three-runway System Advisory Committee](#);
6. [Committee on Home-School Co-operation](#);
7. [Animal Welfare Advisory Group](#);
8. [Museum Advisory Committee](#);
9. [Advisory Committee on Gifted Education](#); and
10. [Working Group on Green Burial and Related Matters](#).

"Young people aged between 18 and 35 on January 28, 2019, i.e. the close of application, with a commitment to serve the community are invited to self-nominate to become members of the 10 specified committees," the spokesman continued.

A Recruitment Committee (RC) has been set up for overseeing the implementation of the MSSY. The RC comprises the Secretary for Home Affairs, a representative of the Youth Development Commission, non-official chairpersons or members of the aforementioned 10 committees and representatives of the bureaux/departments concerned. Under the RC, 10 Assessment Panels (APs) will be formed to take care of the applications concerning the 10 committees respectively. AP members include the non-official chairperson and/or members of the committee concerned and representatives of the bureau/department concerned. The APs will conduct interviews with applicants to facilitate the assessment.

The APs will consider whether the applicant has a strong commitment to serve the community, good understanding of the policy area concerned and good analytical and communication skills. The above three criteria are the only assessment criteria that will be adopted under the MSSY. Following the principle of meritocracy, the Government aims to, through the MSSY, recruit young people who have the commitment to serve the community and the ability to contribute to the committees concerned for recommending to the relevant bureaux/departments for consideration of appointment. Subject to the actual number of applications received, the assessments would be completed in the second quarter of 2019.

The application form and other details of the MSSY Phase II are available on the website of the Home Affairs Bureau (www.hab.gov.hk). In completing the application form, applicants need to write no more than 600 words or provide a video/audio clip of no longer than three minutes to explain, in either Chinese or English, his/her suitability of being appointed to be a member of the relevant committee. Applications may be submitted through the online application system, by post or by hand.

Key statistics on service demand of A&E Departments and occupancy rates of medical wards 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 of medical wards in public hospitals. Key service statistics are being issued daily for public information. Details are in the appended table.

Red flags hoisted at Silverstrand Beach and Clear Water Bay Second Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (December 28) that due to big waves, red flags have been hoisted at Silverstrand Beach and Clear Water Bay Second Beach in Sai Kung District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at these beaches.