

Briefing on “Annual Report 2017” by Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance to be held next Tuesday

The following is issued on behalf of the Office of the Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance:

The Chief Executive has caused a copy of the "Annual Report 2017" by the Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance to be tabled at the Legislative Council sitting tomorrow (November 28).

To assist the public in understanding his report, as well as to answer any queries they may have, the Commissioner, Mr Azizul Rahman Suffiad, will hold a briefing for members of the public, Legislative Council Members and media representatives on December 4 (Tuesday) at 11am at the Function Hall, 1/F, Main Wing, Justice Place, 18 Lower Albert Road, Central, Hong Kong. Registration will start at 10.30am on that day.

Copies of the report will be available for collection after 2pm tomorrow at the Office of the Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance at Units 1501-1504, 15/F, Sunlight Tower, 248 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

The report will also be uploaded to the webpage of the Secretariat, Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance (www.sciocs.gov.hk), tomorrow after the Legislative Council tabling.

For enquiries, please call 2834 3361.

Community thematic carnival “East Side Stories” to be held in Sai Wan Ho in early December (with photos)

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department will hold the "East Side Stories" community thematic carnival on December 9 (Sunday) from 2.30pm to 5.30pm at Aldrich Bay Park in Sai Wan Ho, featuring a variety of activities including performances, an exhibition and workshops to explore the stories of Eastern District. Members of the public are welcome to join in the fun with

free admission.

Stand-up comedian Mary will be the emcee of the carnival, which will feature choral singing, woodwind quintet and a cappella performances, as well as a site-specific dance performance, an interactive music theatre show, pop-up theatre of Eastern District and playback theatre performances.

To enhance the public's knowledge of the history and culture of Eastern District, the carnival will also feature a photo exhibition displaying scenes of old Shau Kei Wan. In addition, recordings of fishing songs will be played for carnival-goers to hear tunes dating back to when Hong Kong was still a fishing village.

Workshops on map drawing, paper modelling, story-telling, 3D origami and an "Open Secrets" corner will also be held for public enjoyment. Admission to all workshops is free with tickets. Tickets will be distributed from 2pm on the event day at the respective workshop booths on a first-come, first-served basis.

For enquiries about the carnival, please call 2591 1340 or visit the website at www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/eo/territoryevents/communitythematic/ctc2018_swh.html.



CHP reviews local HIV/AIDS situation in third quarter of 2018 (with photo)

A total of 156 additional cases of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection were reported to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) in the third quarter of 2018, bringing the cumulative total of reported HIV infections to 9 543 since 1984.

Reviewing the latest HIV/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) situation in Hong Kong at a press conference today (November 27), the Consultant (Special Preventive Programme) of the CHP, Dr Kenny Chan, said that sexual transmission remained the major mode of HIV transmission.

Dr Chan stressed the importance of proper use of condoms in reducing the risk of contracting HIV. Men who have sex with men (MSM), who dominate the epidemic, are strongly urged to use a condom for safer sex.

"HIV is the cause of AIDS and, without treatment, about half of those with HIV will progress to AIDS within 10 years. However, early HIV treatment prevents AIDS and significantly prolongs survival," Dr Chan said, urging HIV-positive people to seek specialist care as soon as possible.

Of the 156 HIV cases, 133 males and 23 females, reported in the above quarter, 83 acquired the infection via homosexual or bisexual contact, 29 via heterosexual contact and one via injecting drug use. The routes of transmission of the remaining 43 cases have yet to be determined due to inadequate information.

The new cases were reported by three major sources: public hospitals and clinics (72 cases), private hospitals and clinics (27 cases), and the DH's Social Hygiene Clinics (21 cases). Among all newly reported cases, 111 (71 per cent) have already received HIV specialist services at the DH or the Hospital Authority.

In addition, 34 new cases of AIDS were reported in the above quarter, bringing the total number of reported AIDS cases to 1 959 since 1985. Among the new cases, 53 per cent were attributed to homosexual or bisexual contact and 44 per cent were related to heterosexual contact.

In the above quarter, the most common AIDS-defining illness was Pneumocystis pneumonia, a kind of chest infection.

"Members of the public, particularly high-risk groups, should use the condom consistently and properly. Those with a history of unsafe sex should take an HIV antibody test early. People who use drugs should discontinue using drugs or receive methadone treatment instead. If injection of drug is unavoidable, do use disposable needle each and every time, and do not share or re-use needles. " Dr Chan said.

The public can call the DH's AIDS Hotline (2780 2211) for a free, anonymous and confidential HIV antibody test. The public may visit the DH's Virtual AIDS Office (www.aids.gov.hk), the Red Ribbon Centre (www.rrc.gov.hk), the AIDS Hotline website (www.27802211.com), the Gay Men HIV Information website (www.21171069.com) and the Harm Reduction website (www.harmreduction.gov.hk) for more information on HIV/AIDS.



[Appeal for information on missing man in Ngau Tau Kok \(with photo\)](#)

Police today (November 27) appealed to the public for information on a man who went missing in Ngau Tau Kok.

Wong Wai-keung, aged 56, went missing after he was last seen on Ngau Tau Kok Road on November 13 morning. His family made a report to Police on November 24.

He is about 1.68 metres tall, 64 kilograms in weight and of medium build. He has a round face with yellow complexion and short greyish black hair. He was last seen wearing a green long-sleeved shirt, dark shorts and white shoes.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing man or may have seen him is urged to contact the Regional Missing Person Unit of Kowloon East on 3661 0316 or 9020 2746, or email to rmpu-ke-2@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.



Speech by CE at Second International Summit on Human Genome Editing (English only)(with photos/video)

Following is the speech by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at the Second International Summit on Human Genome Editing held at the University of Hong Kong this morning (November 27):

Professor Baltimore (Nobel laureate professor and Summit Organising Committee Chair, Professor David Baltimore), Professor Tsui (President of the Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong, Professor Tsui Lap-chee), Sir John (Vice President of the Royal Society, Sir John Skehel), Dr Dzau (President of the US National Academy of Medicine, Dr Victor Dzau), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. Hong Kong is honoured to be chosen as the place for hosting a prestigious group of scientists and experts for the Second International Summit on Human Genome Editing, and I am pleased to welcome you all, especially those coming from the Mainland and overseas. I wish to thank, in particular, Victor Dzau, who first raised the idea of bringing this Summit to Hong Kong with me when we met in February this year. He said this Summit will no doubt put Hong Kong on the map of human genome editing and strengthen the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government's determination to press ahead with biomedical research in Hong Kong.

In 1990, hundreds of researchers from around the world joined forces for what became the world's largest biological project: determining the sequence of the human genome, identifying all the genes it contains. That landmark endeavour was declared complete in 2003, setting in motion extraordinary

advances in the science of human genome editing. It also set in motion a great raft of concerns that led to the inaugural International Summit on Human Gene Editing in Washington, DC, three years ago.

If the technology has continued to accelerate since that 2015 Summit, so, too, have the concerns about the science, ethics, application and governance of human genome editing that must be addressed. This is I believe a subject that will be thoroughly deliberated during the course of this second Summit. Renowned scientists and researchers, technology experts and policymakers, ethicists, patient advocates and many others are here to connect with one another, to discuss and debate the potential benefits and risks of human genome editing, and to consider how to incorporate the societal views into regulations formulation and policy consideration.

Allow me to say, Hong Kong is an ideal place for holding this Summit, given our goal to become an international innovation and technology hub, an ambition with strong support from the Central Government. And biotechnology, I'm pleased to note, is among the key areas we are focusing on.

Our strategy to develop innovation and technology in Hong Kong comprises key elements such as increase in R&D funding, nurturing of local talents as well as admission of non-local talents, development of a cluster of research centres, opening up of health data for research purposes, etc. Detailed initiatives were outlined in my inaugural Policy Address delivered last October, and a recent one last month. You can find some of that information in the booklet in front of you, called [Innovation Hong Kong](#). In total, some \$78 billion, or US\$10 billion, has been allocated for innovation and technology development through these two Policy Addresses.

Specifically, on health technology, we will be establishing a research cluster in the Hong Kong Science Park. We will invite world-class scientific research institutions and technology enterprises to join this cluster, to work with our local universities and research institutions on R&D projects. In this connection, we signed earlier this month a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which will establish an affiliated institution in Hong Kong with a view to facilitating its Guangzhou Institutes of Biomedicine and Health to join the research cluster. In addition, France's Institut Pasteur, which I visited in Paris in June this year, has also indicated interest in joining the cluster in collaboration with the Hong Kong University medical school. I anticipate that the first scientific research institutions to establish laboratories in the health technology cluster will get going within the next year.

Noting that genome medicine has huge potential in screening, diagnosis and precision medicine, I announced in my Policy Address last year the establishment of a steering committee to lead the study on strategies for developing genomic medicine in Hong Kong. The steering committee has put forward a recommendation to conduct a large-scale genome sequencing project in Hong Kong in order to enhance the clinical application of genomic medicine. The project also aims to promote innovative research on genomic medicine to cater for future medical development in Hong Kong through the

establishment of genome data of local population, testing infrastructure and talent pool. I have accepted the steering committee's recommendation and promise to provide government funding for the purpose.

Funding aside, good research is only possible with data. I am pleased to announce that the Hong Kong Hospital Authority is preparing a Big Data Analytics Platform. It will allow researchers to access its invaluable clinical data for the purpose of further healthcare-related research. We expect the Platform to be ready before the end of this year.

All these recent developments make the hosting of the Second International Summit on Human Genome Editing in Hong Kong so very relevant and timely. We welcome all of you to join us in our work to transform Hong Kong into an international health technology hub and to bring significant benefits to mankind.

Finally, my thanks to the organisers, the Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong, the Royal Society, the US National Academy of Medicine and the US National Academy of Sciences, for bringing this far-reaching Summit to Hong Kong. I wish you all a very rewarding Summit and an enjoyable stay in Hong Kong.

Thank you very much.

