

Communications Authority press release

The following is issued on behalf of the Communications Authority:

This press release summarises the decisions of the Communications Authority (CA) following its 79th meeting held in October 2018:

Disruptions of the telecommunications services of China Unicom (Hong Kong) Operations Limited (China Unicom)

On February 27 and March 31, 2018, there were two incidents of network outage of China Unicom, causing disruptions to its telecommunications services including mobile voice services, short message services and mobile data services. The first incident lasted for five hours and 40 minutes and the second incident lasted for seven hours and 25 minutes, with each incident affecting about 138 150 customers. The Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) conducted an investigation into the two incidents. Having considered OFCA's assessment and China Unicom's representations, the CA concluded that China Unicom had breached General Condition 5.1 of its services-based operator licence (licence no. 922), which required it to operate, maintain and provide a good, efficient and continuous service in a manner satisfactory to the CA. The CA decided to impose a financial penalty of \$160,000 on China Unicom. For details, please refer to the CA's Decision published on the CA's website:

www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/472/Unicom_FinalDecision_e.pdf.

Renewal of other licensable television programme service (other licensable TV) licences

The CA approved the applications by The Peninsula Hotel Limited, Ricobem Limited and Langham Hotels International Limited for renewal of their respective other licensable TV licences for the provision of television programme services to hotel rooms in Hong Kong for a period of 12 years. Including the three licensees mentioned above, there are 22 other licensable TV licensees providing services to more than 70 hotels in Hong Kong.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Friday, October 5, 2018 is 105.4 (up 0.1 against yesterday's index).

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected smuggled goods (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (October 4) seized about 300 000 suspected illicit cigarettes with an estimated market value of about \$800,000 and a duty potential of about \$600,000 together with 2 705 cartons of unmanifested assorted goods with an estimated market value of about \$300,000 at the River Trade Terminal Cargo Examination Compound in Tuen Mun.

Customs officers yesterday inspected a 40-foot container declared to contain assorted goods arriving in Hong Kong from Guangzhou. After inspection, Customs officers found 28 cartons containing a total of about 300 000 suspected illicit cigarettes mix-loaded with the batch of unmanifested goods inside the container.

Investigation is ongoing.

Smuggling is a serious offence. Under the Import and Export Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting unmanifested cargo is liable to a maximum fine of \$2 million and imprisonment for seven years.

Members of the public may report any suspected illicit cigarette activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



Government to step up territory-wide anti-rodent operations

As rodents are vectors of a number of diseases, the Government spares no effort to step up rodent prevention and control operations in the territory

and will further strengthen inter-departmental co-operation so as to sustain the effectiveness of rodent prevention and control work at the district level and raise public awareness of rodent prevention and control.

Apart from taking the Rodent Infestation Rate as a reference, the Government will continue to take into account signs of rodent infestation, complaint figures and the views of the local community, and will conduct targeted anti-rodent operations at problematic locations in collaboration with relevant departments and organisations. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will strengthen liaison with the Housing Department (HD) and relevant organisations to organise joint cleaning operations in various districts. The Home Affairs Department and relevant departments will also provide necessary assistance.

The Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, said, "The Government has always been concerned about rodent prevention and control. I visited Choi Wan Estate in Wong Tai Sin as well as Tsuen Wan and Kwun Tong districts last Saturday (September 29) and was briefed by FEHD and HD colleagues on rodent infestation in those areas. I have proposed that the rodent prevention and control work should be enhanced throughout the territory, and co-ordination and co-operation among different departments and organisations should be strengthened.

"To prevent rodent infestation effectively, we should eliminate the three survival conditions of rodents, namely food, harbourage and passages, meaning the elimination of food sources and hiding places of rodents, as well as blockage of their dispersal routes. In addition, the FEHD will enhance publicity and education and step up enforcement actions against illegal acts."

She added, "I hope that continued anti-rodent operations will raise public awareness of rodent prevention and control, which will enhance the overall effectiveness of anti-rodent work. I also call on the community to actively support and participate in the anti-rodent operations and work together for a clean and hygienic community."

In view of the fruitful results of the first round of the anti-rodent operations in designated target areas held in April 2018, the FEHD will conduct another round of two-month anti-rodent operations in designated target areas starting from October 8 to continue to intensify the district rodent prevention and control work.

Each District Environmental Hygiene Office of the FEHD, taking into account factors including rodent infestation rates, the number of rodent complaints received, views of the local community and the number of food premises and "three-nil" buildings, will identify target areas in each district and continue to adopt multi-pronged strategies, including improving environmental hygiene and stepping up rodent disinfection and enforcement actions for carrying out targeted anti-rodent operations.

FEHD staff will enhance street cleaning services and cleaning of public

markets and hawker bazaars in the target areas, including sweeping and cleaning of streets and rear lanes, clearing refuse and waste, emptying and cleaning of litter containers, and clearance of miscellaneous articles and waste in public markets and hawker bazaars, so as to keep the environment clean.

The FEHD will also strengthen rodent disinfection work at problematic spots such as rear lanes, refuse collection points, markets, hawker bazaars, cooked food markets and peripheral areas of construction sites by placing poisonous baits and traps, destroying rat holes and implementing rodent-proofing measures.

In addition, inspections of food premises will be stepped up. Enforcement actions against food premises causing poor environmental hygiene conditions, scullery and food preparation at rear lanes, and improper handling and disposal of rubbish will be strengthened. The FEHD will also adopt a zero-tolerance approach against common public cleanliness offences and take stringent enforcement actions against illegal disposal of refuse and waste.

As regards enhancing public education and publicity, apart from the broadcast of TV and radio Announcements in the Public Interest and display of posters on public transport, the FEHD will collaborate with District Councils and District Offices of the Home Affairs Department to organise anti-rodent promotional activities. The department will also arrange health talks for building management offices of private buildings, persons-in-charge of food premises, and market and hawker stall operators to provide information and technical advice on rodent prevention and control.

Fraudulent website and phishing email related to The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited on fraudulent website and phishing email, which has been reported to the HKMA. Hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#) for ease of reference by members of the public.

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information to the website concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the website

should contact the bank concerned using the contact information provided in the press release, and report to the Police or contact the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.