

# **Fraudulent website related to DBS Bank (Hong Kong) 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 DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited relating to a fraudulent website, which has been reported to the HKMA. A hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#).

The HKMA wishes to remind the public that banks will not send SMS or emails with embedded hyperlinks which direct them to the banks' websites to carry out transactions. They will not ask customers for sensitive personal information, such as login passwords or one-time password, by phone, email or SMS (including via embedded hyperlinks).

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information, or who has conducted any financial transactions, through or in response to the website concerned, should contact the bank using the contact information provided in the press release, and report the matter to the Police by contacting the Crime Wing Information Centre of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

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## **Hong Kong Customs seizes smuggled goods worth about \$40 million (with photo)**

Hong Kong Customs detected two suspected smuggling cases involving ocean-going vessels on October 2. A large batch of suspected smuggled goods with a total estimated market value of about \$40 million was seized.

Through intelligence analysis and risk assessment, Customs discovered that criminals intended to use ocean-going vessels to smuggle goods. Strategies were thus formulated, with one suspicious container scheduled to be shipped from Hong Kong to Thailand, and one suspicious container prepared to be shipped to Cambodia, via ocean-going vessels selected for inspection.

Customs inspected the two containers, declared as carrying clothing and kitchenware respectively, on October 2. Upon examinations, Customs officers found large batches of suspected smuggled goods, including audio equipment, watches, cameras and other electronic products that were mix-loaded with the clothes and kitchenware in the containers.

An investigation is ongoing. The likelihood of arrests is not ruled out.

Being a government department primarily responsible for tackling smuggling activities, Customs has long been combating various smuggling offences. Customs will keep up its enforcement action and continue to fiercely combat sea smuggling activities through proactive risk management and intelligence-based enforcement strategies, and carry out targeted anti-smuggling operations at suitable times to disrupt relevant crimes.

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 upon conviction.

Members of the public may report any suspected smuggling activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 182 8080 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account ([crimereport@customs.gov.hk](mailto:crimereport@customs.gov.hk)) or online form ([eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002](http://eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002)).



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## Remarks by CE at media session before ExCo (with photos/video)

Following are the remarks by the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, at a media session before the Executive Council meeting today (October 15):

Reporter: Good morning Mr Lee. Almost 1.4 million visitors came to Hong Kong during the Golden Week holiday. What do you make of this year's tourism business performance? And also, as a prelude to tomorrow's Policy Address, can you tell us a little bit about what the public can expect from your annual blueprint? Thank you.

Chief Executive: I'm very glad that the Golden Week was full of happiness. It was full of enjoyment; both people of Hong Kong and also a lot of visitors visited Hong Kong, and they enjoyed a good time. I thank my colleagues for organising a lot of activities, and I also thank a lot of different representatives from organisations and districts that organised a lot of activities. There were altogether over 400 activities for people to enjoy and

there were a lot of offers as well, so as to allow everybody to have a good time.

The visitors from the Mainland actually showed a good increase. There were altogether, during the seven days of the Golden Week, a total of 1.22 million visitors from the Mainland, which means, on a daily average, there were over 170 000 Mainland visitors, and this was up 27 per cent compared with the Golden Week last year. And it was also an increase of 13 per cent compared with the Golden Week in May. Some figures actually showed how intensive the activities have been. There were, first of all, over 1 000 Mainland tourist groups visiting Hong Kong. The actual figure is 1 050. Eighty per cent of these tour groups actually stayed overnight. The firework display attracted over 330 000 people and everybody had a good time, and all those who attended were very complimentary of the display and also the arrangement.

Of the major events in which the Government sponsored, cinema-goers paid half price so that they can enjoy a good time. It attracted about 190 000 people who visited the cinema, which was an increase of 22 per cent compared with last time.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department's museums and also art spaces were opened to people for free so there were 60 000 visitors. A lot of public transport also offered free rides or discounted rides. The people who enjoyed all these special offers and took traffic transportation amounted to 4.43 million. The catering business was doing quite well because the associations have indicated that there were about \$2 billion in business over the Golden Week, which was a 5 per cent increase. A lot of representatives from different sectors and businesses have indicated that during the Golden Week, there were a larger number of visitors, customers, and also there was an increase in the business turnover.

I thank my colleagues, particularly those involved in the boundary control points, transportation arrangement, crowd management, and all the different activities they organised. These collective efforts between the Government and different sectors of the community, they did very well to ensure that this special National Day and the Golden Week was a very enjoyable time for everybody. I'm glad to see that this enjoyment was shared by both local Hong Kong citizens and also visitors from different parts of the world. Although the whole thing has gone smoothly, and a lot of activities have been enjoyed, we will, of course, still look at the whole arrangement to see whether we can make it an even bigger success next time.

As regard to the Policy Address, I thank you for the interest. I know that everybody's very keen to know about the content of the Policy Address. I have told you the theme of the Policy Address, which is, we will reform for enhancing development and building our future together. I think that is the sum up of the Policy Address which I will announce tomorrow in the Legislative Council. Thereafter, there will be a series of media interviews, there will be a press conference in the afternoon of tomorrow, and there will be also some collective media interviews the same day tomorrow thereafter. I

thank you for the interest and attention. You will know everything when I announce it tomorrow. Thank you.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the remarks.)



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## Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 is 104.7 (up 0.4 against yesterday's index).

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## Inspection of aquatic products imported from Japan

In response to the Japanese Government's plan to discharge nuclear-contaminated water at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station, the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene issued a Food Safety Order which prohibits all aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds originating from the 10 metropolis/prefectures, namely Tokyo, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Miyagi, Chiba, Gunma, Tochigi, Niigata, Nagano and Saitama, from being imported into and supplied in Hong Kong.

For other Japanese aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds that are not prohibited from being imported into Hong Kong, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will conduct comprehensive radiological tests to verify that the radiation levels of these products do not exceed the guideline levels before they are allowed to be supplied in the market.

As the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water is unprecedented and will continue for 30 years or more, the Government will closely monitor and step up the testing arrangements. Should anomalies be detected, the Government does not preclude further tightening the scope of the import ban.

From noon on October 14 to noon today (October 15), the CFS conducted tests on the radiological levels of 223 food samples imported from Japan, which were of the "aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt" category. No sample was found to have exceeded the safety limit. Details can be found on the CFS's thematic website titled "Control Measures on Foods Imported from Japan" ([www.cfs.gov.hk/english/programme/programme\\_rafs/programme\\_rafs\\_fc\\_01\\_30\\_Nuclear\\_Event\\_and\\_Food\\_Safety.html](http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/programme/programme_rafs/programme_rafs_fc_01_30_Nuclear_Event_and_Food_Safety.html)).

In parallel, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has also tested 50 samples of local catch for radiological levels. All the samples passed the tests. Details can be found on the AFCD's website ([www.afcd.gov.hk/english/fisheries/Radiological\\_testing/Radiological\\_Test.html](http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/fisheries/Radiological_testing/Radiological_Test.html)).

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) has also enhanced the environmental monitoring of the local waters. No anomaly has been detected so far. For details, please refer to the HKO's website ([www.hko.gov.hk/en/radiation/monitoring/seawater.html](http://www.hko.gov.hk/en/radiation/monitoring/seawater.html)).

From August 24, 2023, to noon today, the CFS and the AFCD have conducted tests on the radiological levels of 92 349 samples of food imported from Japan (including 58 846 samples of aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt) and 20 808 samples of local catch respectively. All the samples passed the tests.