

SEN introduces Hong Kong's efforts in mitigating climate change at Global Climate Action Summit (with photos)

The Secretary for the Environment, Mr Wong Kam-sing, continued to participate in the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco, the United States, today (September 14, San Francisco time). He took part in a parallel session entitled "Fast Mitigation: Super-pollutant Solutions to Cut the Rate of Warming in Half" in the morning and spoke on Hong Kong's experience in mitigating climate change. Mr Wong pointed out that Hong Kong was the first city in Asia to mandate a fuel switching requirement for ocean-going vessels, i.e. switching from heavy fuel oil to low-sulphur fuel (sulphur content not exceeding 0.5 per cent) while at berth, adding that such initiatives can help improve air quality and mitigate climate change.

Mr Wong concluded his itinerary in San Francisco in the afternoon and will return to Hong Kong tonight (September 15).



CE meets Standing Committee Member of the CPC Zhejiang Provincial Committee, Secretary of the CPC Hangzhou Municipal Committee (with photo)

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, met the Standing Committee Member of the CPC Zhejiang Provincial Committee, Secretary of the CPC Hangzhou Municipal Committee, Mr Zhou Jiangyong, at Government House this morning (September 15).

Mrs Lam welcomed Mr Zhou and his delegation for visiting Hong Kong to attend a promotion activity by the Hangzhou Municipal Government on economic and trade cooperation, culture and food to be held next Monday. She said she visited Hangzhou in August last year and was deeply impressed by the city's rapid development in recent years, particularly in e-commerce, innovation and technology (I&T) and smart city. She noted that with the successful hosting of the G20 Hangzhou Summit in 2016 and the Asian Games to be held in Hangzhou in 2022, the city's international status is rising.

Mrs Lam said Hong Kong and Hangzhou have always been close and share a lot of similarities with very active private enterprises in both places. Coupled with the vibrant development of I&T and the creative industries in Hong Kong, she said there is huge room for collaboration between the two places. Noting that Hong Kong is an international financial centre with a highly open and international market, robust and comprehensive regulatory regime as well as quality professional services, she said Hong Kong has all along been a foremost platform to help Mainland enterprises to "go global" and encouraged enterprises in Hangzhou to leverage on Hong Kong's advantages to explore together the global market.

On measures being rolled out by the Central Government to facilitate Hong Kong residents to live, work and study in the Mainland and the announcement last month allowing Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland who meet the relevant criteria to apply for residence permits, Mrs Lam expressed her gratitude to the Hangzhou Municipal Government for implementing the measures proactively. She said she hoped the measures would further facilitate exchanges between young people in both places, and help Hong Kong young people who aspire to develop in I&T and the creative industries to identify opportunities for development in Hangzhou where the relevant industries thrive.



Commission on Poverty holds “Life Buddies” Mentoring Scheme 2018/19 Launching Ceremony (with photos)

The following is issued on behalf of the Commission on Poverty:

The Chief Secretary for Administration and Chairperson of the Commission on Poverty (CoP), Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, officiated at the "Life Buddies" Mentoring Scheme 2018/19 Launching Ceremony today (September 15) to start the school-based mentoring programme for the new school year.

Mr Cheung said in his speech that the Scheme signified the Government's commitment in doing its best in youth development in areas including education, career pursuit and home ownership as well as participation in politics, public policy discussion and debate. The collaboration of the community, the business sector, the Government and the education sector had been key to the successful and sustainable implementation of the Scheme. He thanked participating mentors and schools as well as public and private organisations for their vote of confidence in the Scheme since its launch. He also encouraged mentees to seize the learning opportunity and participate in the activities of the Scheme.

Mr Cheung added that the Government would actively consider launching a new round of the 'Be a Government Official for a Day' programme next year, and involving more senior officials so that more students could benefit from the programme.

Other officiating guests at the ceremony included members of CoP and a representative of the Salvation Army, which supports the operation of the Scheme. About 500 representatives from government departments, public bodies, businesses and schools, as well as individual mentors from the community and students joining the Scheme, also attended today's ceremony.

At the sharing session, members of the mentor teams of the Deloitte Foundation and the Department of Health, together with their mentees, discussed their memorable experiences in the Scheme. The mentees also spoke on how the Scheme had helped them determine their personal development goals. They also encouraged new participants to take part in the Scheme enthusiastically in the new school year in order to make the most out of the Scheme.

The Scheme is a cross-sectoral youth upward mobility campaign launched by CoP. There are three key components under the Scheme, namely the school-based mentoring programme, the summer Job Tasting programme and the "Be a Government Official for a Day" programme.

The school-based mentoring programme aims at providing early workplace exposure to youths from disadvantaged backgrounds and allowing them to develop a vision for the future through the guidance of experienced mentors, thereby helping them move upwards in society. Entering its third year, the Scheme successfully enlisted the support of mentors from 48 different government departments, corporations and organisations, an increase of four supporting organisations compared with last year. Together with about 50 individual mentors from the community, 60 mentor teams were formed, and these were partnered with 52 local secondary schools to launch a year of school-based activities.

The Scheme has also held the Job Tasting programme during the summer holiday for three consecutive years. The programme has provided opportunities for secondary students to have hands-on work experience in real-life work settings, as well as exchanges with employees therein and the chance to shadow them in their jobs. During the past summer holiday, the Scheme provided about 900 job-tasting opportunities with support from 70 government departments, corporations and organisations. A highlights video of the Job Tasting programme was premiered at the ceremony.

In addition, the Scheme launched the "Be a Government Official for a Day" programme for the first time this year. The programme received an enthusiastic response with 1 163 applications in total. Thirty-four senior secondary students were selected to shadow the three Secretaries and 13 Bureau Directors of the Government for a day to gain hands-on experience of the Principal Officials' work. The participants also had the chance to directly interact with government officials on their future development directions and goals. A short video featuring the job shadowing experiences of some participants and their discussion of the inspiration gained from the programme was also premiered at the ceremony.

Details of the Scheme can be accessed at the Scheme's website (www.lifebuddies.hk/en). The Scheme has also set up a social network page (www.facebook.com/lifebuddieshk) for sharing relevant information.



Lifesaving service suspended at Trio beach

Attention TV/Radio Announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at regular intervals:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (September 15) that as lifeguards are unable to go to Trio Beach in Sai Kung District by ferry due to rough sea conditions, lifesaving service at the beach has been suspended until further notice. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach until further notice.

Special traffic arrangements for race meeting in Sha Tin tomorrow

Police advise motorists that special traffic arrangements will be implemented in Sha Tin to facilitate the race meeting tomorrow (September 16).

The arrangements will come into effect two hours before the start of the first race and will last until the crowds have dispersed after the race meeting.

Appropriate traffic signs will be put up and police will be on hand to guide motorists.

The Police also appeal to people going to Sha Tin Racecourse for the race meeting and to Happy Valley Racecourse for cross betting to make maximum use of public transport.

Parking spaces at the two racecourses are available only to holders of appropriate permits issued by Hong Kong Jockey Club and any vehicles illegally parked will be towed away.