

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (September 7) released the latest grading of water quality for 38 gazetted beaches that are open for swimming and one non-gazetted beach (i.e. Discovery Bay*).

Eighteen beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 16 as Fair (Grade 2) and five as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Chemical Reaction

clearWasteBottleBnDBeachHouseInLandscape

KING BEACH KAYAK RACE

U p p e r C h e u n g S h a B e a c h

Grade 2 beaches are:

Butterfly Beach	Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Cafeteria New Beach	Kadoorie Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	Lido Beach
Casam Beach	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach
Clear Water Bay First Beach	Pui O Beach
Deep Water Bay Beach	Silver Mine Bay Beach
Discovery Bay	Silverstrand Beach
Golden Beach	Stanley Main Beach

Grade 3 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach	Castle Peak Beach
Approach Beach	Ting Kau Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach	

* Discovery Bay is a non-gazetted beach without lifeguard service.

Compared with the grading released last week, Cafeteria New Beach and Clear Water Bay First Beach have been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2, and Approach Beach, Big Wave Bay Beach, Castle Peak Beach and Ting Kau Beach from Grade 2 to Grade 3.

"The changes are generally within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of the beaches," an EPD spokesman said.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

While the ratings represent the general water quality at the beaches, the EPD spokesman reminded members of the public that water quality could be temporarily affected during and after periods of heavy rain. Bathers should avoid swimming at beaches for up to three days after a storm or heavy rainfall.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. The latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the department's websites on Beach Water Quality (www.beachwq.gov.hk and www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.

“#ArtTravellers Exhibition Series III: Tracing along the Green Blades” transforms exotic plants into journey maps

The Art Promotion Office today (September 7) launched an exhibition entitled “#ArtTravellers Exhibition Series III: Tracing along the Green Blades” at the 1/F Lobby of Trade and Industry Tower. Featuring works by Carol Lee and Trevor Yeung, two artists specialising in different media, the exhibition showcases unique travelogues which were created with exotic plants collected in their journeys. Through their artworks, Lee and Yeung present new meanings in flora.

Carol Lee preserves blooms by flower pressing, and she has used specimens in her work for this exhibition. Without adding any chemicals to preserve the colours of the plants, nor speeding up the drying process, she simply presses them between pages of her notebook – freezing the natural forms of the plants and capturing her travel memories. Lee started making pressed flowers in 2013, and has now collected around 500 species of plants from Asia, Europe and the Americas.

Trevor Yeung uses plants, including bonsai, as the media to show his interpretation of the similarities between plant behaviour and human relationships, as well as to reflect his personal life experience. For this exhibition, Yeung has employed butterfly palms and plants with mutated white patterns respectively for his works “Mr Universal Butterflies” and “Variegated Island”. He has also showcased the flowerpots he collected while

travelling. The artwork "Planter Tower" was created by piling up flowerpots from his collection.

Organised by the Art Promotion Office under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, "Tracing along the Green Blades" is the third phase of the three-year #ArtTravellers exhibition series and will run until March 23 next year. Artists contributing to the exhibition series use different media to encourage viewers to explore the little details one may often miss during a journey, and to reflect on the meaning of travel from a new perspective.

For details and the latest updates of the exhibition, please visit the Art Promotion Office's website at www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/AP0/en_US/web/apo/tracing_along_the_green_blades.html, follow the ArtTravellers Facebook page (www.facebook.com/apo.arttravellers) or Instagram page (www.instagram.com/apo.arttravellers), or call 2512 3000.

Trade and Industry Tower is located at 3 Concorde Road, Kowloon.

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Thirty-four immigration offenders arrested

The Immigration Department (ImmD) mounted a series of territory-wide anti-illegal worker operations, including an operation codenamed "Twilight," and joint operations with the Hong Kong Police Force codenamed "Champion", from September 3 to 6. A total of 25 illegal workers and nine suspected employers were arrested.

During operation "Twilight", ImmD Task Force officers raided 36 target locations including restaurants, residential flats under renovation, village houses, residential buildings, a commercial building, a shopping mall, a massage parlor, a hotel and garbage collection depots. Eighteen illegal workers and eight employers were arrested. The illegal workers comprised 11 men and seven women, aged 25 to 59. Among them, three men and three women were suspected of using and being in possession of forged Hong Kong identity cards or identity cards relating to other person. Meanwhile, five men and three women, aged 29 to 60, were suspected of employing the illegal workers.

Furthermore, during operation "Champion", enforcement officers raided nine target locations in Tsing Yi, Sha Tin and Kwai Chung districts, including a car park, an industrial building, a residential building and restaurants. Seven illegal workers and an employer were arrested. The illegal

workers comprised five men and two women, aged 24 to 53. Among them, four men were holders of recognisance forms, which prohibit them from taking any employment. Meanwhile, a man, aged 31, was suspected of employing the illegal workers.

"Any person who contravenes a condition of stay in force in respect of him shall be guilty of an offence. Also, visitors are not allowed to take employment in Hong Kong, whether paid or unpaid, without the permission of the Director of Immigration. Offenders are liable to prosecution and upon conviction face a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to two years' imprisonment. Aiders and abettors are also liable to prosecution and penalties," an ImmD spokesman said.

The spokesman warned that, as stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, illegal immigrants or people who are the subject of a removal order or a deportation order are prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining in any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. The Court of Appeal has issued a guideline ruling that a sentence of 15 months' imprisonment should be applied in such cases. It is an offence to use or possess a forged Hong Kong identity card or a Hong Kong identity card related to another person. Offenders are liable to prosecution and a maximum penalty of a \$100,000 fine and up to 10 years' imprisonment.

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for three years and a fine of \$350,000. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence. According to court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card. The maximum penalty for failing to inspect such a document is imprisonment for one year and a fine of \$150,000.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD, as a standard procedure, will conduct initial screening of vulnerable persons, including illegal workers, illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers, who are arrested during any operation with a view to ascertaining whether they are trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threat and coercion in the recruitment phase and the nature of exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various forms of support and assistance, including urgent interference, medical

services, counselling, shelter, temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments.

Two illegal workers jailed

Two illegal workers, comprising a Pakistani and a Bangladeshi, were jailed by Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday (September 6).

Immigration Department (ImmD) investigators received a referral from the Hong Kong Police Force to further investigate an illegal employment case in June. Enforcement officers arrested a male Pakistani illegal worker and a male Bangladeshi illegal worker, aged 32 and 40, dismantling electronic devices in Pat Heung. Upon identity checking, they produced for inspection recognisance forms issued by the ImmD, which prohibit them from taking employment. Further investigation revealed that they were non-refoulement claimants. An employer suspected of employing the illegal workers was arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

The two illegal workers arrested were each charged at Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday with taking employment after landing in Hong Kong unlawfully and remaining in Hong Kong without the authority of the Director of Immigration or while being a person in respect of whom a removal order or deportation order was in force. They pleaded guilty to the charges and were sentenced to imprisonment for 16 months' and 15 months' respectively.

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