

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Thursday, August 30, 2018 is 104 (up 0.2 against yesterday's index).

CS and SFH inspect progress of anti-mosquito work on Cheung Chau (with photos)

In view of the confirmed local dengue fever cases on Cheung Chau, the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, and the Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, today (August 30) went to Cheung Chau to view the progress of the Government's anti-mosquito work and visited residents and a school there during the visit.

Mr Cheung said, "The Government is very concerned about the 27 confirmed local dengue fever cases recorded in Hong Kong so far this year. Among them, the patients of nine confirmed cases reside in or visited Cheung Chau during the incubation period. We will spare no effort in conducting all-out intensive anti-mosquito operations in the hope of curbing the spread of dengue fever with the concerted efforts of district organisations. The new school year will begin next week and therefore I have come to Cheung Chau with Professor Chan to check the implementation of mosquito prevention and control work.

"At the Pest Control Steering Committee meeting in mid-August, I had already instructed the relevant bureaux and departments to make reference to the modus operandi of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to carry out anti-mosquito work in areas under their purview, with enhanced strength, coverage and intensity, for co-operating with this territory-wide anti-mosquito operation in a concerted manner.

"Further to the joint operation on August 22, the Food and Health Bureau, the Department of Health, the FEHD, the Home Affairs Department, the Civil Aid Service, the Islands District Council and the Cheung Chau Rural Committee carried out another joint operation on Cheung Chau today to strengthen the dissemination of anti-mosquito messages to residents as well as the anti-mosquito measures at their homes and surroundings."

Professor Chan said, "Co-operation and support of the public is vital to control the spread of dengue fever. Mosquito control requires the concerted efforts of all sectors of the community and members of the public should maintain personal hygiene and prevent mosquito breeding in their everyday

lives. I appeal to all sectors of the community to join hands with the Government to take effective measures to prevent the problem of mosquito infestation."

She added, "In view of the implementation of the All-out Anti-mosquito Operation by the FEHD in all districts, we have allocated extra funding of \$4 million to the FEHD to facilitate the additional anti-mosquito work to be carried out by the District Environmental Hygiene Offices, as well as to strengthen the co-operation with the environmental hygiene committees of the District Councils to eradicate the black spots of mosquito breeding grounds in the districts immediately. The funding will be used for the purchase of ultra-low-volume foggers, the engagement of additional Pest Control Teams and the enhancement of publicity and educational work on mosquito prevention and control. We will also closely monitor the needs of districts and make corresponding measures in a timely manner.

"Furthermore, in order to accelerate the announcement of the ovitrap index for *Aedes albopictus* with a view to enhancing the awareness of residents in taking mosquito preventive measures, the FEHD will adopt a new arrangement in the release of the ovitrap index starting from September. The figures for individual districts will usually be uploaded to the FEHD website in phases days after the collection of ovitraps so that members of the public may obtain the latest information on the situation of mosquito infestation as early as possible."

During the operation, the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Secretary for Food and Health inspected the mosquito prevention and control work carried out by FEHD staff. Earlier, the FEHD gradually extended its anti-mosquito operation on Cheung Chau from areas within a 500-metre radius of the residences and activity areas of the patients to other places where houses are located and more visitors appear. The FEHD has also inspected the camp sites and schools on Cheung Chau since last week and reminded them to take mosquito control measures.

Mr Cheung and Professor Chan also visited Cheung Chau Government Secondary School and a household. They said they were pleased to learn that the school and the household had proactively taken anti-mosquito measures in the campus and at home. The officials stressed that co-operation and participation of the community and residents, in addition to the efforts of the government departments, are crucial to effective mosquito control over the territory.

The CHP appeals to members of the public not to visit Lion Rock Park during the closure period in order to prevent contracting dengue fever. Scientific studies have shown that infected persons can transmit the virus to mosquitoes through mosquito bites even if they remain asymptomatic or before their onset of symptoms, leading to further spread of the disease. Hence, people who have visited Lion Rock Park are advised to apply insect repellent for 14 days after their last visit, and those with dengue fever symptoms should seek medical advice as early as possible. People who reside in or visit Cheung Chau are advised to apply insect repellent during their stay and continue applying it for 14 days after their last day of stay to prevent

infection and secondary spread.

The public should call 1823 in case of mosquito problems and may visit the dengue fever pages of the [Centre for Health Protection](#) (CHP) and its [Travel Health Service](#), the latest [Travel Health News](#), [tips for using insect repellents](#), the CHP [Facebook Page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#), and the FEHD's [Guidebook on Control and Prevention of Mosquito Breeding](#) for more information.



[**FEHD orders Kwun Tong food factory to**](#)

suspend business for 14 days

The Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene has ordered a food factory in Kwun Tong to suspend business for 14 days as the operator repeatedly breached the Food Business Regulation (FBR) by extending the business area illegally.

The premises, located at shop G5 on the ground floor of Ka Kwai Arcade of Yau Tong Centre at 9-11 Ka Wing Street, Yau Tong, was ordered to suspend business from today (August 30) to September 12.

"In March and May this year, two convictions for the above-mentioned breach were recorded against the operator of the shop. A total fine of \$5,500 was levied by the court and 30 demerit points were registered against the licensee under the department's demerit points system. The contraventions resulted in the 14-day business suspension," a spokesman for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) said.

The licensee of the food premises had a record of two convictions for the same offence in October last year and February this year. A total fine of \$3,000 was levied and 30 demerit points were registered. The breaches led to business suspension for seven days in April this year.

The spokesman reminded licensees of food premises to comply with the FBR, or their licences could be suspended or cancelled.

Licensed food premises are required to exhibit a sign, at a conspicuous place near the main entrance, indicating that the premises have been licensed. A list of licensed food premises is available on the FEHD's website (www.fehd.gov.hk/english/licensing/index.html).

Public consultation on proposed code of practice on third party funding of arbitration and mediation starts today

The Department of Justice (DoJ) today (August 30) launched a two-month public consultation to seek views on the draft Code of Practice for Third Party Funding of Arbitration and Mediation (Code).

A spokesman for the DoJ said, "The draft Code sets out the practices and standards with which third party funders of arbitration under the Arbitration Ordinance (Cap 609) and mediation under the Mediation Ordinance (Cap 620) are ordinarily expected to comply in carrying on activities in connection with

third party funding of arbitration and mediation in Hong Kong.”

The provisions in relation to third party funding of arbitration and mediation were enacted by the Arbitration and Mediation Legislation (Third Party Funding) (Amendment) Ordinance 2017 (Amendment Ordinance).

The Amendment Ordinance is largely based on the recommendations made by the Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong in the Report of Third Party Funding of Arbitration and published in October 2016. Amongst other things, the Amendment Ordinance provides for an authorised body to be appointed and for the authorised body to issue the Code pursuant to Part 10A of the Arbitration Ordinance and section 7A of the Mediation Ordinance to issue the Code. On May 18, 2018, the Secretary for Justice was appointed as the authorised body under section 98X(2) of the Arbitration Ordinance.

Before issuing the Code, the authorised body is required to consult members of the public. The Amendment Ordinance will be brought into operation after the Code is issued by the authorised body.

Pursuant to section 98X(1) of the Arbitration Ordinance, Mr Anthony Chow, Mr Robert Y H Pang, SC, and Mr Victor Dawes, SC, were appointed as members of an advisory body on August 24, 2018. The advisory body will be responsible for monitoring and reviewing the operation of the provisions on third party funding of arbitration and mediation, including the implementation of the Code.

The spokesman added, "It is expected that the advisory body would issue a report reviewing the operation of the Code after it has been in operation for three years and make recommendations on the way forward."

The draft Code is now available on the DoJ website (www.doj.gov.hk/eng/public/pdf/2018/tpfcode_e.pdf). The consultation will end on October 30, 2018.

Members of the public are invited to submit their comments on the draft Code to the Legal Policy Division of the Department of Justice by mail to 5/F, East Wing, Justice Place, 18 Lower Albert Road, Central, Hong Kong, or by email to tpfcode@doj.gov.hk.

Smoking ban extended to three bus interchanges leading to expressways or tunnels

The Tobacco Control Office (TCO) of the Department of Health today (August 30) reminded the public that the smoking ban will be extended to

cover three additional bus interchanges (BIs) leading to expressways or tunnels with the commencement of the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 2) Order 2018 tomorrow (August 31). The three new statutory no-smoking areas (NSAs) are:

1. Aberdeen Tunnel Bus Interchange;
2. Lantau Toll Plaza Bus Interchange; and
3. Tuen Mun Road Bus Interchange.

"The extension is aimed at further protecting the public from the harm of second-hand smoke," a spokesman for the TCO said.

Since March 31, 2016, the following eight BIs at tunnel portal areas have been designated as statutory NSAs:

1. Lion Rock Tunnel Bus Interchange;
2. Cross-Harbour Tunnel Bus Interchange;
3. Eastern Harbour Crossing Bus Interchange;
4. Shing Mun Tunnels Bus Interchange;
5. Tate's Cairn Tunnel Bus Interchange;
6. Western Harbour Crossing Bus Interchange;
7. Tai Lam Tunnel Bus Interchange; and
8. Tsing Sha Highway Bus Interchange.

"Enforcement at the designated NSAs has been largely smooth and the public has welcomed the smoking ban in these areas. To further protect the health of individuals, the Government decided to extend the smoking ban to the three additional BIs under the Order.

"With the commencement of the Order, the smoking ban covers all 11 BIs that lead to expressways or tunnels throughout the territory," the spokesman said.

No-smoking signs and layout plans have been put up, and demarcation lines have been displayed to indicate clearly the boundaries with regard to the respective physical settings at the new statutory NSAs to remind the public of the smoke-free requirements. Publicity activities have also been launched to promote public awareness and compliance.

The plans showing the boundaries of the NSAs are also available in the Land Registry, and have been uploaded to the TCO's website (www.tco.gov.hk/english/legislation/legislation_bi.html) for public inspection.

Any person who smokes or carries a lighted cigarette, cigar or pipe in a designated NSA or in public transport will be liable for a fixed penalty of \$1,500. Tobacco Control Inspectors will prosecute smoking offenders without prior warning.

"We appeal to smokers to quit smoking as early as possible for their own health and that of the others. They are encouraged to call the DH's

Integrated Smoking Cessation Hotline on 1833 183. The hotline is operated by registered nurses, providing professional counselling services on smoking cessation," the spokesman said.