

HAD Emergency Co-ordination Centre in operation

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

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

As the Landslip Warning has been issued, the Home Affairs Department's Emergency Co-ordination Centre is now in operation.

The Home Affairs Department will open temporary shelters for people in need of temporary accommodation.

For details, please contact the centre on 2835 1473.

SCMA visits Qianhai (with photos)

The Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Patrick Nip, visited Qianhai today (August 29). He toured some Hong Kong enterprises there and also met with officials of the Shenzhen Municipal Government and the Authority of Qianhai to exchange views on matters relating to co-operation between Hong Kong and Qianhai.

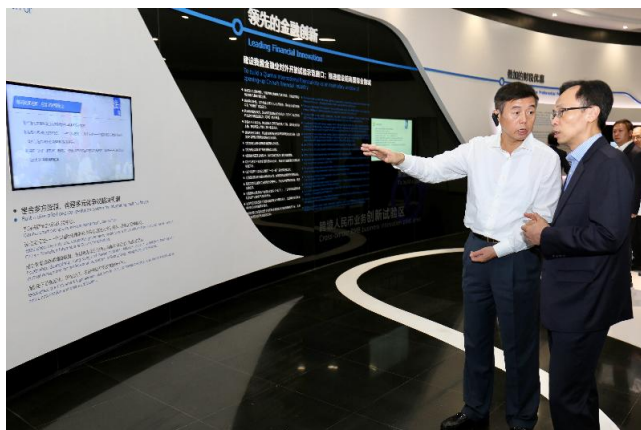
Mr Nip first met with the Vice Mayor of Shenzhen Municipality, Mr Ai Xuefeng. He then visited the Qianhai Exhibition Hall, where he was briefed on Qianhai's latest developments by Member of the Standing Committee of the Shenzhen Municipal Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Director-General of the Pilot Free Trade Zone (Qianhai and Shekou) Administration, Mr Tian Fu. He also exchanged views with Mr Tian and officials of the Authority of Qianhai to explore ways to foster co-operation between Hong Kong and Qianhai and to leverage the complementary advantages of both places.

"The Outline of the National 13th Five-Year Plan expresses support for expediting the development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao co-operation platforms such as Qianhai, Nansha and Hengqin. I am pleased to learn that Qianhai has introduced a series of measures which facilitate Hong Kong people and enterprises working and doing business there. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government will continue to strengthen ties with Qianhai and assist Hong Kong enterprises and professionals to explore business opportunities in the Mainland market. It will also make the best use of the platform of Qianhai to take forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area," Mr Nip said.

Mr Nip also visited a joint venture securities company set up by companies from Hong Kong and Qianhai and was briefed on its daily business operation. Established under the framework of Supplement X to the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, the company represents a milestone in Shenzhen-Hong Kong financial collaboration.

Mr Nip then paid a visit to a joint venture law firm set up by legal professionals from Hong Kong and the Mainland to learn about its advantages in rendering legal services.

Mr Nip returned to Hong Kong this evening.



Care centres remain open

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following special announcement immediately and repeat it at frequent intervals:

"The Social Welfare Department announces that while the Red Rainstorm Warning has been issued, all child care centres, centres providing after school care programmes, elderly services centres and day rehabilitation units, including sheltered workshops, integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres and day activity centres, remain open. However, if necessary, members of the public can contact the centres to make arrangements for the safe return home of their children and family members."

Three men given suspended jail sentences for trawling

Three Mainland men who used trawling gear to fish illegally on August 27 were convicted and sentenced to four weeks' imprisonment suspended for one year at Kwun Tong Magistrates' Courts today (August 29).

The Marine Police found a trawler suspected to be trawling in the waters off Conic Island at about 7pm on August 27 and intercepted the vessel for an inspection. Two hundred catties of fish and some trawling apparatus were seized on board the vessel.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) took over the case. Upon investigation, three Mainland men on the vessel were charged for contravening the Fisheries Protection Regulations by using prohibited fishing gear. They appeared at Kwun Tong Magistrates' Courts and were convicted and sentenced today. The fishing gear concerned was also forfeited.

An AFCD spokesman reminded the public that the ban on trawling came into force on December 31, 2012. Under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance, any person who contravenes the ban is liable to a maximum penalty of a fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for six months upon conviction.

Trawling is a non-selective fishing operation which damages the seabed and marine ecosystems. A ban on trawling has brought this harmful depletion to an immediate halt, enabling marine ecosystems to be gradually rehabilitated to a sustainable level and be better conserved in the long run.

The spokesman said, "The AFCD and the Police will continue to carry out joint enforcement operations to crack down on illegal fishing activities."

Man holding charged with murder

Police today (August 29) laid a holding charge against a 53-year-old man with one count of murder.

The man was arrested yesterday (August 28) in suspected connection with a murder case happened in Western Division in which a 53-year-old woman died.

The case will be mentioned at Eastern Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (August 30).