

Adjustment of the Base Rate

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority announced today (June 14) that the Base Rate was adjusted upward by 25 basis points to 2.25% with immediate effect according to a pre-set formula. The increase in the Base Rate follows the 25-basis point upward shift in the target range for the US federal funds rate on June 13 (US time).

The Base Rate is the interest rate forming the foundation upon which the Discount Rates for repurchase transactions through the Discount Window are computed. The Base Rate is currently set at either 50 basis points above the lower end of the prevailing target range for the US federal funds rate or the average of the five-day moving averages of the overnight and one-month Hong Kong Interbank Offered Rates, whichever is the higher.

SJ promotes HK's role as deal-making and dispute resolution hub in London (with photos)

The Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC, promoted Hong Kong's role as an ideal hub for deal making and dispute resolution in London, the United Kingdom (UK), today (June 13, London time). Speaking at a legal and business sector event, Ms Cheng said key players of the international business community, including those from the UK, can seize the new opportunities brought about by the synergy created by the respective strengths of cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area.

Ms Cheng was delivering a speech entitled "Hong Kong as an ideal hub for deal making in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Area" at a seminar organised by Hong Kong Association and attended by representatives from the legal and business sector.

Ms Cheng said Hong Kong's distinctive strengths as the most open and international city in China, together with its robust legal system and unparalleled expertise in legal and financial services, make it an ideal hub for deal making and dispute resolution in the Bay Area.

Enterprises can embrace what Hong Kong has to offer with this role when seizing the new opportunities, including those arising from proliferation of intellectual property rights in the Bay Area and the wave of technological

innovation.

Ms Cheng is currently conducting an official visit in London to promote Hong Kong as a legal and deal-making hub and update key players in the UK on Hong Kong's latest developments in international legal and dispute resolution services.

Earlier in the morning, Ms Cheng met with the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, Mr David Gauke, to exchange views on legal matters of mutual interest. She also met with the Chair of the Bar of England and Wales, Mr Andrew Walker, QC, to enhance ties with the legal profession and paid a courtesy call on the Chinese Ambassador to the UK, Mr Liu Xiaoming.

Ms Cheng will continue her visit tomorrow (June 14, London time) in the UK.



Missing man in Central located

A man who went missing in Central was located.

Chan Chun-wing, aged 29, went missing after he was last seen at a pier on Connaught Road Central on June 7 afternoon. His family made a report to Police on the next day (June 8).

The man was located on Victoria Park Road today morning (June 13). He sustained no injuries and no suspicious circumstances were detected.

Speech by CE at 18th Anniversary of HKEX Cocktail Reception (English only) (with photos/video)

Following is the speech by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at the 18th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) Cocktail Reception today (June 13):

Laura (Chairman of HKEX, Mrs Laura Cha), members of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited Board, Deputy Director Huang Lanfa (Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)), Deputy Commissioner Yang Yirui (Deputy Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening. It is a great pleasure to be here to join you all to celebrate the 18th anniversary of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, and I am particularly grateful to Laura for advancing the date of this reception to suit my schedule. I have to tell you it is very rare for the Chief Executive to ask the organiser to change a date in order to suit the Chief Executive, because I have enough – more than enough – invitations to a lot of things. But I really want to come this year to share the joy of the celebration because this evening's reception is not just what Laura described as a momentous occasion for HKEX, but actually it's a historic moment for the first lady Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the first lady Chairman of HKEX to take the stage and to give you that confidence that Hong Kong's financial services will grow stronger and stronger under two women. Of course I have every confidence that under Laura's leadership, with her sparkling track record and building on the strong foundations of HKEX laid by Charles Lee, Ron Arculli and C K Chow, we will be seeing a very promising future for Hong Kong's securities market.

Today is the 18th anniversary and this number 18, I'm sure you'll agree, is a very good figure. It will bring good fortune to Hong Kong and to the future of HKEX and the market. Also 18 is a moment you enter adulthood. I'm not suggesting that HKEX was kind of childish in the last 17 years, but this is a moment for us to enter a new era of adulthood. So, if in the past we have benefited significantly from the opening up and reform of the Mainland of China's financial markets, this is a time for Hong Kong to go global.

A few days after I took office, I was standing here to witness the launching of the Bond Connect, and we have to be extremely grateful to the Central Authorities for giving us so many opportunities in the last few years, one after another with the Shanghai Connect, the mutual recognition of funds, the Shenzhen Connect and then last year's Bond Connect. But Hong Kong's value lies in being international, and this is where we could contribute to the further opening up of the Mainland's financial markets. So I have this joint mission and aspiration with Laura that we should really take our markets globally and attract more internationally renowned companies to come to list on HKEX.

I already put in my little part by going on a 12-hour trip to Saudi Arabia last December, Riyadh, for only one single objective – you know what that is, and we're still working very hard at that. I'm happy to go on more roadshows, if my diary permits, with the HKEX in order to tell the world that this is the place to be, because attracting overseas companies to list in Hong Kong is not just a question of listing rules – although listing rules are very important as we have seen from the new listing rules to attract new-economy technology companies, biotechnology companies and secondary listing of overseas-listed companies in Hong Kong. But it is not just the listing rules. I would say that it is not just the regulatory regime of Carlson (Chairman of the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC), Mr Carlson Tong) and Ashley (Chief Executive Officer of the SFC, Mr Ashley Alder). It is also what Hong Kong can offer.

So, it is for me as the Chief Executive, the Financial Secretary and our team to back up your promotion work to tell people what this city can offer. We can offer the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary, this high degree of internationalisation and this place being a very liveable city so that more companies from abroad will choose Hong Kong as their destination for the raising of capital. I hope that in my tenure I will continue to make my contribution to Hong Kong's securities industry, and I hope that you will all support Laura and the team and my Government in bringing Hong Kong's securities market to new heights.

Thank you very much.



CHP investigates case of Legionnaires' disease

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is investigating today (June 13) a case of Legionnaires' disease (LD), and stressed the importance of using and maintaining properly designed man-made water systems and that susceptible groups should strictly observe relevant precautions.

The male patient aged 92 with underlying illnesses, who lives in an elderly home in Tai Po, was admitted to Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital on May 31 for decreased general condition and right ear discharge. He developed shortness of breath since June 7. The clinical diagnosis was pneumonia and he is in critical condition.

The patient's urine sample tested positive for *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 antigen upon laboratory testing.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient had no travel history in the incubation period.

"Epidemiological investigations with the hospital and elderly home are ongoing to identify potential sources of infection, high-risk exposure and clusters, if any. Relevant water samples and environmental swabs are being collected from potential sources for testing," a spokesman for the CHP said.

Tracing of contacts including in-patients and staff of the ward as well as residents and staff of the elderly home where the patient stayed in the incubation period is ongoing and those identified will be put under medical surveillance. The CHP has provided health advice against LD to staff, in-patients and residents, including those with weakened immunity who should use sterile or boiled water for drinking, tooth brushing and mouth rinsing.

Apart from the above case, as of June 9, a total of 22 LD cases had been reported in 2018. In 2017 and 2016, there were 72 and 75 cases respectively

Legionellae are found in various environmental settings and grow well in warm water (20 to 45 degrees Celsius). They can be found in aqueous environments such as water tanks, hot and cold water systems, cooling towers, whirlpools and spas, water fountains and home apparatus that support breathing. People may get infected when they breathe in contaminated droplets (aerosols) and mist generated by artificial water systems. They may also get the infection when handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes.

Persons with weakened immunity should strictly observe the health advice below:

- Use sterile or boiled water for drinking, tooth brushing and mouth rinsing;
- Avoid using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices. A shower may also generate small aerosols; and
- If using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices, fill the water tank with only sterile or cooled freshly boiled water, and not water directly from the tap. In addition, clean and maintain humidifiers/devices regularly according to manufacturers' instructions. Never leave stagnant water in a humidifier/device. Empty the water tank, wipe all surfaces dry, and change the water daily.

The public, including susceptible groups, should take heed of the general precautions against LD below:

- Observe personal hygiene;
- Do not smoke and avoid alcohol;
- Remove strainers in water taps and shower heads quarterly for cleaning;
- If a fresh water plumbing system is properly maintained, it is not necessary to install domestic water filters. Use of water filters is not encouraged as clogging occurs easily, which can promote growth of micro-organisms. In case water filters are used, the pore size should be 0.2 micrometres and they need to be changed periodically;
- Drain and clean water tanks of buildings at least quarterly;
- Drain or purge for at least one minute the infrequently used water outlets (e.g. water taps, shower heads and hot water outlets) and stagnant points of the pipework weekly or before use;
- Seek and follow medical advice regarding the use and maintenance of home respiratory devices and use only sterile (not distilled or tap) water to clean and fill the reservoir. Clean and maintain the device regularly according to manufacturer's instructions. After cleaning/disinfection, rinse the device with sterile water, cooled freshly boiled water or water filtered with 0.2-micrometre filters. Never leave stagnant water in the device. Empty the water tank, keep all surfaces dry, and change the water daily; and
- When handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes:

1. Water gardens and compost gently using low pressure;
2. Open composted potting mixes slowly and make sure the opening is directed away from the face;
3. Wet the soil to reduce dust when potting plants; and
4. Avoid working in poorly ventilated places such as enclosed greenhouses.

More information is available in the CHP's [LD](#) page, the [Code of Practice for Prevention of LD](#) and the [Housekeeping Guidelines for Cold and Hot Water Systems for Building Management](#) of the Prevention of LD Committee, and the CHP's [risk-based strategy](#) for prevention and control of LD.