

SCED urges all APEC members to show strong support for multilateral trading system (with photos)

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, spoke at a discussion session on "Supporting the Multilateral Trading System" at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) Meeting in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea today (May 25).

He said that trade disputes, if loomed large, do not only hurt the rival parties, but world trade and economic development also suffer collateral damage. Given their interdependence in the closely-knit world economy, APEC member economies are all vulnerable, he added, and they all have their part to play to redouble support for the predictability of the rule-based multilateral trading system (MTS), with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its centre.

"This rule-based international system helps sustain a dynamic but stable international market environment, in which our goods and services can compete on a level playing field. And in the event of disputes, it allows a fair hearing for all, regardless of size and economic power.

"The WTO, as a member-driven organisation, is as good as we members want it to be. As a loyal member and a responsible custodian, Hong Kong stands ready to discuss its imperfections and work with the other 163 WTO members to make the WTO a stronger ship to brave the storm and current of protectionism. However, we cannot have a meaningful discussion if any one of us behaves like a captain getting ready to abandon its ship," said Mr Yau.

He added that as a staunch supporter of the MTS and a free trade practitioner, Hong Kong is deeply concerned about the prolonged impasse in filling the vacancies in the Appellate Body (AB) of the WTO.

"All APEC and WTO Members should spare no efforts to preserve this key pillar in the dispute settlement mechanism and uphold the credibility and effective functioning of the MTS. At this critical juncture, we urge all member economies to redouble our efforts in pushing forward the process for filling in the AB vacancies at the WTO," he said.

The theme of APEC 2018 is "Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future". Mr Yau also participated in two other discussion sessions, namely "Fostering Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Through Digital Agenda" and "Deepening Regional Economic Integration and Connectivity".

Between the discussion sessions, Mr Yau attended a minister's working lunch to exchange views with participating ministers on enhancing market access for micro, small and medium enterprises using information and

communications technology.

On the sidelines of the MRT Meeting, Mr Yau took the opportunity to have exchanges with the Director-General of International Trade Cooperation and Deputy Trade Minister of the Ministry of Trade of Indonesia, Mr Iman Pambagyo; the Secretary of Trade and Industry of the Philippines, Mr Ramon Lopez; the Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore, Mr Chan Chun-sing; the Deputy Minister and Coordinator of International Economic Relations with Global Affairs of Canada, Mr Jonathan Fried; the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Regional Economic Development of New Zealand, Mr Fletcher Tabuteau; the Deputy Secretary General (Trade) of Ministry of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia, Datuk Isham Ishak; the Deputy Minister of Commerce of Thailand, Ms Chutima Bunyapraphasara; and the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Vietnam, Mr Tran Quoc Khanh, on trade-related issues.

Mr Yau will continue to join the MRT Meeting tomorrow (May 26).



Meetings of Legislative Council and its Committees

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) and its Committees will hold 15 open meetings, one public hearing and two closed meetings during the week from May 28 to June 1 in the LegCo Complex. Details of the meetings are available in the meeting schedule attached.

The information in the meeting schedule is subject to change. Please refer to the "LegCo Calendar" on the LegCo website (www.legco.gov.hk) for the latest details of meetings.

Members of the public are welcome to observe open meetings of LegCo and its Committees. Interested individuals and groups are advised to make advance booking of seats by calling the LegCo Secretariat at 3919 3399 during office hours. Members of the public can also listen to or watch all open meetings via the "Webcast" system on the LegCo website.

Interruption of Immigration Complaints hotline service

Due to the regular inspection of the building's electrical installation system, the telephone system of the Investigation Sub-division of the Immigration Department at Skyline Tower in Kowloon Bay will be affected from 10pm today (May 25) until further notice. The Immigration Complaints Hotline will be interrupted. The numbers affected are:

Immigration Complaints Hotline: 2824 1551

Immigration Complaints Faxline: 2824 1166

During the period of interruption, the following avenues will be available for members of the public to report immigration offences:

- email to anti_crime@immd.gov.hk;
- Online Reporting of Immigration Offences via www.gov.hk/en/apps/immdreportoffences.htm; or
- fax to the Information and Liaison Section of the Immigration Department on 2877 7711.

HAD to open temporary night heat shelters

The Home Affairs Department will open 15 temporary night heat shelters tonight (May 25) for people in need of the service.

The shelters will be open from 10.30pm until 8am tomorrow.

For further information, please call the department's enquiry hotline before midnight on 2835 1473.

The 15 temporary night heat shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Districts:

Central and Western –

Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall
3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex,
2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

Eastern/Wan Chai –

Causeway Bay Community Centre
7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

Kowloon Districts:

Kowloon City –

Hung Hom Community Hall
1/F, Kowloon City Government Offices,
42 Bailey Street, Hung Hom

Kwun Tong –

Lam Tin (West) Estate Community Centre
71 Kai Tin Road, Lam Tin

Sham Shui Po –

Shek Kip Mei Community Hall
G/F, Block 42, Shek Kip Mei Estate, Sham Shui Po

Wong Tai Sin –

Tsz Wan Shan (South) Estate Community Centre
45 Wan Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan

Yau Tsim Mong –

Henry G Leong Yaumatei Community Centre
60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei

New Territories Districts:

Kwai Tsing –
Kwai Shing Community Hall
Podium, Block 6, Kwai Shing West Estate, Kwai Chung

North –
Cheung Wah Community Hall
Cheung Wah Estate, Fanling

Sha Tin –
Lung Hang Estate Community Centre
Lung Hang Estate, Sha Tin

Tai Po –
Tai Po Community Centre
2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po

Tsuen Wan –
Lei Muk Shue Community Hall
G/F, Hong Shue House, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Tsuen Wan

Tuen Mun –
Butterfly Bay Community Centre
Butterfly Estate (near Tip Sum House), Tuen Mun

Yuen Long –
Long Ping Community Hall
Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long

Yuen Long –
Tin Yiu Community Centre
Tin Yiu Estate, Tin Shui Wai

[HA releases Medication Safety Bulletin](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hospital Authority (HA) today (May 25) published the biannual Medication Safety Bulletin (MSB). This issue reports on the Annual Medication Safety Forum, entitled "Near Miss Management – Reporting, sharing and learning" held in December 2017. The Forum is one of the HA's key initiatives

to promote risk management among healthcare professionals in public hospitals.

The latest issue also deliberates on the risks of and improvements in handling "look-alike sound-alike" medications, and features how the Kowloon Central Cluster shared information on and learned from near-miss incidents.

The publication has already been posted on the web to share the contents with healthcare professionals. Members of the public are also welcome to browse it via the following link www.ha.org.hk/msb. The MSB is published every six months, on the last Fridays of May and November. The next issue will be published on November 30.