

Inspection of aquatic products imported from Japan

In response to the Japanese Government's plan to discharge nuclear-contaminated water at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station, the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene issued a Food Safety Order which prohibits all aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds originating from the 10 metropolis/prefectures, namely Tokyo, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Miyagi, Chiba, Gunma, Tochigi, Niigata, Nagano and Saitama, from being imported into and supplied in Hong Kong.

For other Japanese aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds that are not prohibited from being imported into Hong Kong, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will conduct comprehensive radiological tests to verify that the radiation levels of these products do not exceed the guideline levels before they are allowed to be supplied in the market.

As the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water is unprecedented and will continue for 30 years or more, the Government will closely monitor and step up the testing arrangements. Should anomalies be detected, the Government does not preclude further tightening the scope of the import ban.

From noon on September 12 to noon today (September 13), the CFS conducted tests on the radiological levels of 203 food samples imported from Japan, which were of the "aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt" category. No sample was found to have exceeded the safety limit. Details can be found on the CFS's thematic website titled "Control Measures on Foods Imported from Japan" (www.cfs.gov.hk/english/programme/programme_rafs/programme_rafs_fc_01_30_Nuclear_Event_and_Food_Safety.html).

In parallel, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has also tested 50 samples of local catch for radiological levels. All the samples passed the tests. Details can be found on the AFCD's website (www.afcd.gov.hk/english/fisheries/Radiological_testing/Radiological_Test.html).

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) has also enhanced the environmental monitoring of the local waters. No anomaly has been detected so far. For details, please refer to the HKO's website (www.hko.gov.hk/en/radiation/monitoring/seawater.html).

From August 24, 2023, to noon today, the CFS and the AFCD have conducted tests on the radiological levels of 83 854 samples of food imported from Japan (including 53 660 samples of aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt) and 19 204 samples of local catch respectively. All the samples passed the tests.

MD reminds passengers on high-speed craft to fasten seat belts (with photos)

The Marine Department (MD) today (September 13) launched a new round of its publicity campaign to remind passengers on high-speed craft between Hong Kong and Macao that they should fasten their seat belts for a safer sea journey. The initiative was carried out at the Hong Kong-Macao Ferry Terminal in Sheung Wan and the China Ferry Terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui.

The MD has set up a large backdrop of a Hong Kong scene installed with genuine cabin seats at the waiting lounge of the Hong Kong-Macao Ferry Terminal in Sheung Wan. Passengers on high-speed craft between Hong Kong and Macao are encouraged to try out the seats with their seat belts fastened. Promotional leaflets and souvenirs are being distributed to passengers in the waiting lounge by the MD's Marine Inspectors, who are reminding passengers to fasten their seat belts at the appropriate time to ensure a safe sea journey.

A spokesperson for the MD said, with the slogan "Have a Safe and Happy Journey with Your Seat Belt Fastened", the campaign reminds passengers on high-speed craft between Hong Kong and Macao to pay attention to the master's announcement during the voyage. When the master announces the instruction, passengers should fasten their seat belts to ensure a safe journey.

The MD will continue to distribute promotional leaflets at waiting lounges and display promotional materials such as posters prominently at the two cross-boundary ferry terminals. In addition, the MD will utilise various channels to raise passenger awareness of fastening seat belts on high-speed craft between Hong Kong and Macao.



Extension of opening hours and special traffic arrangements of FEHD's columbaria during Chung Yeung Festival

A spokesman for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) today (September 13) said that the opening hours of columbaria under the FEHD will be extended to 7am to 7pm during the Chung Yeung Festival period (i.e. from September 21 to October 20) to assist grave sweepers as well as to alleviate crowd conditions. The department appealed to grave sweepers to avoid grave-sweeping activities during the peak period on the day of the Chung Yeung Festival and pay tribute to ancestors over a wider period before and after the festival.

The spokesman reminded grave sweepers to pay attention to special traffic and transport arrangements that will be implemented during the Chung Yeung Festival. Access to cemeteries and columbaria of the FEHD will be closed to all vehicles while the special traffic and transport arrangements are in operation, except for those with permission. For details of the special traffic and transport arrangements in the vicinity of cemeteries and crematoria, please browse the Transport Department website (www.td.gov.hk). In addition, the escalator adjacent to Cape Collinson-San Ha Columbarium has been opened for public access.

The FEHD expects that there will be a large number of visitors burning paper offerings in joss paper burners (JPBs) at the Tsang Tsui Columbarium and Cape Collinson-San Ha Columbarium during the peak sweeping period of the Chung Yeung Festival. No walk-in queuing for the JPBs will be allowed at both columbaria on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays during the above-mentioned Chung Yeung Festival period. Members of the public must make bookings via the FEHD website (www.fehd.gov.hk/english/cc/notice.html) or obtain queue tickets in the columbaria. For details of the JPB arrangements, please browse the FEHD website.

Green burial allows the environment to thrive and love to endure. Members of the public can register their wishes for a green burial through the Green Burial Central Register (www.greenburial.gov.hk). The registration is simple and free of charge. Members of the public can also pay tribute to their loved ones through the Internet Memorial Service webpage (www.memorial.gov.hk) and its mobile application. During the Chung Yeung Festival, a Green Burial Exhibition will be held on the G/F of Tsang Tsui Columbarium. All are welcome to visit free of charge. Throughout the exhibition period, a food kiosk will be set up to provide food and beverages for sale.

Film Archive to screen 4K digitally restored version of "Zu: Warriors from the Magic Mountain" in celebration of World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (with photos)

In support of World Day for Audiovisual Heritage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Hong Kong Film Archive (HKFA) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will present the 4K digitally restored version of "Zu: Warriors from the Magic Mountain" (1983), adapted from the martial arts novel "Legend of the Swordsmen of the Mountains of Shu" at the Cinema of the HKFA at 2pm on October 27 (Sunday).

The film features a number of renowned actors, including Adam Cheng, Brigitte Lin, Damian Lau, Yuen Biao, Mang Hoi, Sammo Hung, Judy Ongg and Moon Lee. When the film was produced in the 1980s, computer-generated special effects were not commonplace. Director Tsui Hark introduced advanced visual special effects by bringing in Hollywood special effects experts, while incorporating special optical effects and traditional studio-generated techniques with usage of extensive wirework, to recreate the fantasy world of wuxia with rich and colourful images and stunning action scenes. The HKFA conducted the 4K digital restoration of the film based on the film negatives, soundtrack, and subtitles of the film's Hong Kong version, allowing audiences to appreciate the wuxia classic on the silver screen.

The programme will be accompanied by a post-screening talk by special sound effect artist Henry Chung and animator Lam Kee-to, both of whom had participated in the production of the film, with film critic Eric Tsang as the moderator.

The film is in Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitles. Tickets priced at \$55 will be available at URBIX (www.urbtix.hk) from September 20 (Friday). For telephone bookings, please call 3166 1288. For programme enquiries, please call 2739 2139 or visit the website of the HKFA at www.filmarchive.gov.hk/en/web/hkfa/2024/unesco/pe-event-2024-unesco.html.

In 2005, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization designated October 27 of every year as World Day for Audiovisual Heritage. It promotes awareness of the importance of preserving audio-visual documents from the past, which play an integral role in recording local and regional cultures.



Housing Department reminds tenants to keep estates clean during Mid-Autumn Festival

With the Mid-Autumn Festival just around the corner, the Housing Department (HD) reminds residents living in Public Rental Housing (PRH) estates to handle lighted candles with care and to keep the estates clean, in order to ensure a safe and joyful celebration.

An HD spokesman reminds residents today (September 13) to not litter or

boil wax in public places of PRH estates, as both flames and melted wax can pose a risk of injury. Boiling wax may cause fires and severe burns. Therefore, parents should educate their children on the proper handling of flames and prevent them from boiling wax.

According to the Estate Management Marking Scheme (Marking Scheme), littering or boiling wax in a PRH estate is a misdeed attributable to the allotment of penalty points immediately without warning. Residents committing these misdeeds may also contravene relevant ordinances and can be fined \$3,000 at the same time.

"Although issues of littering or wax boiling caused by PRH residents during the Mid-Autumn Festival have significantly improved in the past, we will continue to step up our patrols this year. When patrol staff discover minors boiling wax, verbal warnings will be given to them. If they refuse to stop the misdeeds, we will approach their parents for follow-up actions. The household concerned may be subject to an allotment of penalty points under the Marking Scheme, and the tenancy will be terminated if 16 points or more are allotted within two years," the spokesman stressed.

Apart from routine checks by estate offices, staff members from the HD's Regional Patrol Teams and Mobile Operations Unit will be deployed to patrol PRH estates beyond midnight for three consecutive days from Monday (September 16) to Wednesday (September 18).

Messages for urging tenants to not litter or boil wax and to keep the estates clean have been publicised through posters, the Housing Channel and more. Additional cleaning workers will be deployed to clean up early in the morning following the festival day.

The spokesman called for PRH residents' support in keeping the estates clean and encouraged them to report any misdeeds to estate offices or the Housing Authority Hotline on 2712 2712.