

# Public urged not to burn wax, fly sky lanterns or litter at LCSD venues during Mid-Autumn Festival

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) today (September 11) appealed to the public to keep places clean and tidy and to not burn wax or fly sky lanterns when celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival.

"To provide a better environment for members of the public to enjoy the festive occasion, we appeal to them not to burn or melt wax. They should not sprinkle or pour liquids onto hot wax. Metal cans or non-flammable containers should be used to collect melted wax for easy disposal into litter bins after the containers cool down," a spokesman for the LCSD said.

"Moreover, members of the public should not throw glow sticks or other objects onto trees, as doing so may cause damage to the trees and affect the cleanliness of venues. Furthermore, they should not fly sky lanterns as doing so might cause injuries or damage to property and facilities."

The spokesman said that to ensure that the public can celebrate the festival in a clean and safe environment, patrols will be stepped up at the department's venues including parks, public beaches and barbecue sites on September 17. Staff will be deployed to take enforcement action against littering, wax burning, throwing objects onto trees and flying sky lanterns at night.

Members of the public may call the LCSD's hotline on 2414 5555 to report any irregularities found at LCSD venues.

According to the Pleasure Grounds Regulation, no person shall, in any pleasure ground, melt or burn any wax; sprinkle or pour any liquid onto any hot wax; damage any part of any tree, shrub or plant; or fly kites, model aircraft, balloons or other devices (including sky lanterns). According to the Bathing Beaches Regulation, no person shall, on any bathing beach, do any act that is likely to endanger or obstruct any other person using the beach, or damage, deface or pollute the beach or anything situated thereon. Any person who is convicted is liable to a maximum fine of \$2,000 and 14 days' imprisonment.

Littering offenders will be issued with a fixed penalty notice with a fine of \$3,000, while those who burn wax, throw objects onto trees or fly sky lanterns may be prosecuted.

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# EDB organises Healthy Living, Happy Family Series – Picturise Your Messages Sticker Design Competition

The Education Bureau (EDB) today (September 11) invites all kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools to encourage active participation from teachers, students and parents in the Healthy Living, Happy Family Series – Picturise Your Messages Sticker Design Competition organised by the EDB.

A spokesman for the EDB said, "This event aims to encourage parents to develop a healthy lifestyle with their children, including adequate sleep, daily exercises and participation in leisure activities, so that both parents and children can relax and maintain their physical and psychological well-being to facilitate the happy and healthy development of children."

The competition comprises the kindergarten, primary school and secondary school groups. Students and parents may showcase their creativity by creating a set of four stickers together on the theme of developing a healthy lifestyle, and enrol in the competition through their respective schools on or before October 14. Schools should register and submit entries for participating students through the activity website ([www.parent.edu.hk/en/smart-parent-net/topics/article/ppc-competition2024](http://www.parent.edu.hk/en/smart-parent-net/topics/article/ppc-competition2024)). Participants who submit an eligible entry will receive a certificate of commendation and a souvenir.

Each group will have a champion, a first runner-up, a second runner-up, five merit awards and The Most Liked Award. The adjudication panel will select 15 outstanding entries from each group for students, parents and the public to vote for The Most Liked Award through the activity website ([www.parent.edu.hk/en/smart-parent-net/topics/article/ppc-competition2024](http://www.parent.edu.hk/en/smart-parent-net/topics/article/ppc-competition2024)) from October 29 to November 4. The awards and prizes for each group are as follows:

Award	Prize
Champion	Certificate of commendation and \$1,000 gift voucher
First runner-up	Certificate of commendation and \$800 gift voucher
Second runner-up	Certificate of commendation and \$500 gift voucher
Merit Award (five awardees)	Certificate of commendation and \$300 gift voucher
The Most Liked Award	Certificate of commendation and \$500 gift voucher

The Most Active Participating School Award	Certificate of commendation and \$2,000 gift voucher
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In addition, the EDB will arrange interviews and video shoots for the schools receiving The Most Active Participating School Award, and the videos will be uploaded to the EDB and Smart Parent Net websites and/or social media platforms.

The EDB aims to raise awareness of the Positive Parent Campaign among students, parents and the public through activities under the Healthy Living, Happy Family Series, and to complement the promotion of the 4Rs Mental Health Charter (4Rs Charter) newly launched in the 2024/25 school year. Parents are encouraged to support the 4Rs Charter and uphold the four essential elements in fostering mental health, namely Rest, Relaxation, Relationship and Resilience, and work together with schools to create an environment conducive to the healthy development of students.

The EDB has been running the Positive Parent Campaign since June 2020 to promote positive parent education through extensive and diversified channels. The objective is to foster parents' positive thinking and promote proper ways and attitudes for nurturing children, thereby developing in parents a positive and optimistic mindset that contributes to the effective learning and happy development of children. For updates on the Positive Parent Campaign, please visit the Smart Parent Net website ([www.parent.edu.hk/en/](http://www.parent.edu.hk/en/)).

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## **Postal services to Vietnam subject to delay**

â€‹Hongkong Post announced today (September 11) that, as advised by the postal administration of Vietnam, due to flooding, mail delivery services to the provinces of Lao Cai, Yen Bai, Phu Tho, Lang Son, Lai Chau, Quang Ninh, Thai Nguyen, Bac Kan, Cao Bang, Tuyen Quang, Ha Noi and Hai Phong in Vietnam are subject to delay.

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## **Remarks by SCED at media session**

Following are the remarks by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon Yau, at a media session after attending the Ninth Belt and Road Summit today (September 11):

Reporter: Secretary Yau, what do you think about the US passing the ETO bill? Will it dampen the business relationship between the US and Hong Kong? Is there anything the Hong Kong Government can do to compensate the harm?

Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development: We strongly condemn the US House of Representatives for passing the bill. There is no reason behind it. It's purely political. It slanders the laws on safeguarding national security in Hong Kong and smears the human rights situation without any reasons at all. We strongly condemn it.

Actually, the showing up of the participants (at the Summit) today signifies that people have confidence in doing business in Hong Kong. Even the survey by the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong showed that nearly 80 per cent of their members feel safe doing business in Hong Kong and have confidence about the law in Hong Kong, and nearly 70 per cent of their members do not believe the National Security Law is creating any impact on the operation of their business in Hong Kong. So, we are very confident their business sector will still be investing in Hong Kong. Currently, there are about 1 200 American companies here. The US has a very strong trade surplus (with Hong Kong) over the past 10 years of about US\$270 billion. The passing of the bill and other reports actually are not creating any benefit to anybody at all. We strongly disagree and strongly condemn their reports and their passing of the bill. Thank you.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the remarks.)

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## [Speech by FS at Ninth Belt and Road Summit Keynote Luncheon \(English only\) \(with photo\)](#)

â€‹Following is the speech by the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, at the Ninth Belt and Road Summit Keynote Luncheon today (September 11):

Your excellency Mrs Dilma Rousseff (President of New Development Bank), Honourable Ministers and representatives from the Belt and Road countries, Dr Peter Lam (Chairman of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council), distinguished speakers and guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to Hong Kong, and to this keynote luncheon of the Belt and Road Summit.

A special welcome to Her Excellency Mrs Dilma Rousseff, former President of Brazil and currently President of the New Development Bank. We are all

eager to hear her inspiring perspectives on the Belt and Road Initiative in just a few moments.

For now, let me serve as your appetiser.

## The Belt and Road Initiative: Opportunities with Hong Kong

Since it was first proposed by President Xi Jinping in 2013, the Belt and Road Initiative has connected countries, regions and continents through advancing infrastructure development, and strengthening collaboration in trade, investment, and people-to-people exchanges.

Over the years, the Initiative has delivered real and tangible benefits to communities across the globe, bringing people together and making valuable contributions to the building of a global community with a shared future.

Hong Kong has long been a proud participant, contributor and beneficiary of the Belt and Road Initiative. Our prime value proposition lies in our ability to connect. As the Initiative embraces a new decade, Hong Kong will continue to leverage our unique position and strengths as an international financial, trade, shipping and professional services centre, striving to offer new opportunities and create value for economies, enterprises and people along the Belt and Road.

One area ripe with opportunities is our diversified financial services.

After all, Hong Kong is Asia's premier fund-raising hub. With a diverse equity, bond and currency market, we provide an ideal environment for Belt and Road governments and companies to raise funds for infrastructure, green transition, and community projects.

This is evident in our deep and extensive stock market with a capitalisation of around US\$4 trillion.

We welcome companies and projects from the Belt and Road economies to list in Hong Kong, where they could gain access to Mainland and international capital. Last year, the Hong Kong Stock Exchange reached agreements with the stock exchanges of Saudi Arabia and Indonesia, facilitating quality companies from these economies to secondary list in Hong Kong. Recently, we added Abu Dhabi and Dubai to our list of partners, further expanding our connectivity with these dynamic markets.

Our bond market is equally vibrant. Bonds issued in Hong Kong come in various forms, currencies and tenures, catering to the diverse needs of borrowers and investors around the world. For many years, governments and international organisations have used Hong Kong to raise funds to support their development, including the New Development Bank, I'm pleased to note.

In particular, Hong Kong continues to be Asia's leader for green and sustainable finance, helping regional and global green transition. We are providing subsidies for bond issuers and loan borrowers to help cover part of their expenses related to green bond issuance and external review services.

Over the past three years, green and sustainable debt issued or arranged in Hong Kong amounted to over US\$63 billion per annum. Green bonds issued accounted for over one-third of Asia's total.

We also lead in thought leadership and capacity building. Our green taxonomies and standards align seamlessly with the best international standards. We also offer a variety of training and internship programmes in green finance. You are most welcome to take advantage of these.

Speaking of green, it is essential to highlight our vision of becoming an international green technology and green finance centre.

Hong Kong's green tech sector is fast rising. Among the many environmental and climate technologies developed by our tech start-ups, a newly emerging area is electric vehicles (EV). While Hong Kong may not be a mass EV production base, our tech firms are leading the way with advanced EV charging solutions, which have opened up markets in countries such as Thailand and Australia. They are set to help fuel the ambitions of Belt and Road countries in embracing net-zero transportation.

Beyond the financial and technology sector, our professional services are top-notch and ready to assist our Belt and Road partners with infrastructure and other projects – from feasibility studies to project design, and from construction to operation. The wide range of professional services we offer include legal, finance, consulting, dispute resolution, and risk management.

Indeed, as a major international risk management centre, Hong Kong possesses the expertise, experience and institutions to manage risks associated with large infrastructure projects and other events, including a comprehensive array of insurance, re-insurance and consulting services.

For example, catastrophe bonds which allow investors to share natural disaster risks with attractive returns. Since 2021, five catastrophe bonds have been issued in Hong Kong, covering events from earthquakes to storms, spanning locations from the Mainland to Chile, and from Japan to Jamaica, with a total value exceeding US\$700 million. Two of these bonds are listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

## Concluding remarks

Ladies and gentlemen, from financial to professional services, and from supporting green transition to risk management, there is much that Hong Kong can contribute to the bright future of your economy. We stand ready to work with you, to grasp the opportunities ahead, and co-create a more interconnected, mutually beneficial and prosperous future for all.

Finally, while you are here in Hong Kong, I encourage you to take the time to enjoy this splendid city. Try some of our 200 Michelin-recommended restaurants, which offer a delightful blend of East and West culinary fare. We have no import duty on wines, by the way. Stroll along our beaches. Or

explore our country parks and World Heritage Geopark. Or enjoy the sea breeze at the harbourfront. And don't miss the two world-class museums in our West Kowloon Cultural District: the Hong Kong Palace Museum and the M+.

I assure you, you will fall in love with this great city. Thank you very much.

