STL concludes visit to Athens (with photos)

The Secretary for Transport and Logistics and Chairman of the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board (HKMPB), Mr Lam Sai-hung, concluded his visit to Athens, Greece, today (September 6, Athens time) with a delegation of HKMPB members.

Mr Lam arrived in Athens yesterday (September 5, Athens time) and met with the Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy of Greece, Mr Christos Stylianides, to exchange views on matters of mutual interest. Both sides agreed to further explore concrete co-operation opportunities. Mr Lam and the delegation also had a meeting with the Union of Greek Shipowners to promote Hong Kong's high value-added maritime services and the work of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry.

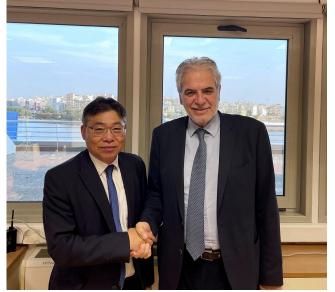
Mr Lam then hosted a business dinner for Greek shipping companies and associations to strengthen connections and develop potential business prospects.

Referring to the close ties between the port and maritime communities of Greece, Hong Kong and Mainland China in various areas, including shipping operation and other high value-added maritime services, Mr Lam said, "Hong Kong and Greece have long enjoyed a cordial and enduring relationship, with our bilateral merchandise trade totalling about 200 million euros, an increase by around one-third of last year. The throughput tonnage between the two places also increased by 55 per cent during the same period, amounting to 220 000 tonnes."

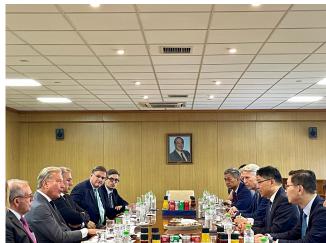
"This strong foundation of economic and people-to-people connections provides a solid basis for us to further deepen our collaboration in the maritime domain. Hong Kong is the gateway between Mainland China and the rest of the world, and I believe there are tremendous opportunities for Hong Kong and Greece to collaborate and capitalise on our respective strengths in the port and maritime sector," he added.

Mr Lam and the delegation visited port facilities in Piraeus to learn about the operation of the Greek port today (September 6, Athens time). They then paid a courtesy call on the Chinese Ambassador to Greece, Mr Xiao Junzheng, to give him an update on the latest developments of Hong Kong's maritime industry.

Mr Lam and the delegation concluded the visit today and will arrive in Hong Kong tomorrow (September 7, Hong Kong time).















Hong Kong Customs highly concerned about business suspension of chain fitness and beauty group causing losses to consumers

Hong Kong Customs has noticed that a chain fitness and beauty group suddenly announced today (September 6) that it would be suspending operations at all branches. As a result, customers who had purchased prepaid fitness and beauty services are unable to use the relevant services.

As of 4.30pm today, Customs had received four complaints regarding the chain group concerned. The department will contact the complainants for case details in order to commence an investigation.

Customs appeals to consumers who have purchased fitness or beauty services from the chain group to contact Customs as soon as possible. Customs will conduct an investigation based on the information upon the receipt of complaints.

Customs is highly concerned about the incident and has set up a dedicated team to follow up with a view to handling the cases as soon as possible. The department will also continue to closely monitor the situation. Should there be any violation of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (TDO), Customs will take decisive enforcement action.

Customs reminds traders to comply with the requirements of the TDO. Consumers are also reminded to procure services at reputable shops and consider prudently before making decisions for consumption with prepayment. After purchasing services, they should keep the relevant records, such as

transaction receipts and contracts, which can become basic information in case a complaint is lodged in the future.

Under the TDO, any trader commits an offence if at the time of acceptance of payment, the trader intends not to supply the product or intends to supply a materially different product, or there are no reasonable grounds for believing that the trader will be able to supply the product within a specified or reasonable period. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for five years.

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Members of the public may report any suspected violations of the TDO to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk) or online form (eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002).

Fifth stop of "Anti-drug Info Zone: Stride Ahead Into A Drug-free Future" Roving Exhibition to be staged at MegaBox this weekend

The "Anti-drug Info Zone: Stride Ahead Into A Drug-free Future" Roving Exhibition (Anti-drug Roving Exhibition) will be held at MegaBox on September 7 and 8. Members of the public are welcome to visit the exhibition at the Atrium on the 5/F of MegaBox from 10am to 9pm.

The Anti-drug Roving Exhibition is co-organised by the Narcotics Division (ND) of the Security Bureau and the Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN), and is designed with the theme of interstellar space. Drugs are portrayed in the exhibition as aliens that should be defeated. This visual representation helps present the adverse effects caused by drugs on one's mind and body in a vivid manner. And by seeing the aliens, everyone will be strongly reminded again to stay away from drugs at all times, and of the dire consequences of committing drug crimes.

Including elements of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and multimedia, the Anti-drug Roving Exhibition is divided into different theme zones with games, digital exhibition panels and a photo booth to spread anti-drug knowledge to visitors, and provide them with information about criminal liability for drug offences, how to seek help and so on. Anti-drug videos, animations and leaflets will also be available at the Anti-drug Roving Exhibition to provide visitors with precise anti-drug information. After the fifth stop, the Anti-drug Roving Exhibition will be held at shopping malls in different districts and at tertiary institutes until the

end of March next year.

A new school year has just begun. Students may face challenges as they embark on their new learning journeys. The Chairman of the ACAN, Dr Donald Li, reminds young people about the importance of starting healthy hobbies and engaging in activities that promote mental and physical well-being in their spare time. Dr Li added, "Young people are our future pillars. I hope they can develop a positive mindset when they are young so that they can cope with daily challenges with ease as they grow up. When facing the temptation of drugs, our young people can firmly say 'no', and build a drug-free Hong Kong together."

The website (www.nd.gov.hk) of the ND contains detailed information about drugs, including frequently asked questions about "space oil", cocaine and cannabis for the public's reference. Information about the ND's anti-drug roving exhibition is available on its dedicated webpage (www.nd.gov.hk/en/rovingexhibition.html). Netizens are also encouraged to follow the ND's official accounts ("narcotics.divisionhk") on Facebook and Instagram for the latest anti-drug information. If members of the public encounter any drug problems, they can send messages to 98 186 186 on instant messaging applications WhatsApp and WeChat, or call the 24-hour hotline 186 186 to seek information or assistance from professional social workers.

Appeal for information on missing man in Mong Kok (with photo)

Police today (September 6) appealed to the public for information on a man who went missing in Mong Kok.

Ng Cheung-tat, aged 25, went missing after he left his caring home on Boundary Street yesterday (September 5) morning. Staff of the caring home then made a report to Police.

He is about 1.7 metres tall, 60 kilograms in weight and of thin build. He has a long face with yellow complexion and short black hair. He was last seen wearing a white short-sleeved T-shirt, black shorts and blue slippers.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing man or may have seen him is urged to contact the Regional Missing Persons Unit of Kowloon West on 3661 8036 or 9020 6542, or email to rmpu-kw@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.



CAD actively follows up on A350 aircraft issue to enhance aviation safety

The Civil Aviation Department (CAD), since receiving notification from Cathay Pacific Airways Limited (CPA) on September 2 about the engine component failure discovered on an A350 aircraft bound for Zurich earlier that day, has been actively following up the matter. Among others, the CAD has been maintaining close communication with CPA to provide regulatory advice. The CAD also took the initiative to approach and notify relevant entities, including the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), which is the civil aviation authority of the State of Design of the aircraft, as well as the manufacturers of the aircraft and engine concerned, and coordinate with CPA to provide inspection results and data of relevant engine components. The CAD also held an online meeting with the EASA on September 4 to discuss the investigation direction.

After the unremitting efforts of the CAD and CPA in facilitating and providing information on investigation and engine component inspection to the relevant authorities, the EASA this morning (on the night of September 5, European time) issued an emergency airworthiness directive requiring inspections of A350 aircraft powered by the specified model of engine. The directive is applicable to all airlines that operate A350 aircraft powered by relevant engines worldwide.

As CPA has taken the initiative to carry out precautionary measures earlier, the airline has already fulfilled the requirements of the directive.

The CAD attaches great importance to aviation safety and will ensure that all A350 aircraft flying into and out of Hong Kong comply with the relevant emergency airworthiness directive. The CAD will also continue to maintain close communication with the relevant parties, including the EASA and aircraft and engine manufacturers, and closely monitor the investigation progress to ensure follow-up actions are taken in a timely manner to safeguard aviation safety.