

Update on dengue fever

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (September 6) reported the latest number of dengue fever (DF) cases, and urged the public to maintain strict environmental hygiene, mosquito control and personal protective measures both locally and during travel.

From August 30 to yesterday (September 5), the CHP recorded four imported DF cases; the patients had been to Nepal (two cases), the Philippines (one case) and Thailand (one case) during the incubation periods.

As of yesterday, 58 cases of DF, including 54 imported and four local cases, had been recorded in 2024. In 2023, 62 imported cases of DF were recorded.

According to the World Health Organization, the global incidence of DF has markedly increased over the past two decades, posing a substantial public health challenge. In 2023, ongoing transmissions, combined with an unexpected spike in DF cases, had resulted in close to a historic high of over 6.5 million cases, and more than 7 300 dengue-related deaths reported in over 80 countries/territories. The latest surveillance data shows that there is an increase in DF cases noted in some places in Asia (such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand) compared to the same period last year. Since the beginning of 2024, the Americas, including Brazil, Argentina and Peru, have recorded over 11 million cases, a record number. Detailed information on the latest DF situation in Hong Kong, as well as neighbouring and overseas countries and areas, has been uploaded to the CHP website (www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/df_imported_cases_and_overseas_figures_eng.pdf).

"Apart from general measures, travellers returning from areas affected by DF should apply insect repellent for 14 days upon arrival in Hong Kong. If feeling unwell, seek medical advice promptly and provide travel details to a doctor," a spokesman for the CHP said.

The public should take heed of the following advice on mosquito control:

- Thoroughly check all gully traps, roof gutters, surface channels and drains to prevent blockage;
- Scrub and clean drains and surface channels with an alkaline detergent compound at least once a week to remove any deposited mosquito eggs;
- Properly dispose of refuse, such as soft drink cans, empty bottles and boxes, in covered litter containers;
- Completely change the water of flowers and plants at least once a week. The use of saucers should be avoided if possible;
- Level irregular ground surfaces before the rainy season;
- Avoid staying in shrubby areas; and
- Take personal protective measures such as wearing light-coloured long-sleeved clothes and trousers, and apply insect repellent containing DEET to clothing or uncovered areas of the body when doing outdoor

activities.

DEET-containing insect repellents are effective and the public should take heed of the tips below:

- Read the label instructions carefully first;
- Apply right before entering an area with risk of mosquito bites;
- Apply on exposed skin and clothing;
- Use DEET of up to 30 per cent for pregnant women and up to 10 per cent for children*;
- Apply sunscreen first, then insect repellent; and
- Reapply only when needed and follow the instructions.

* For children who travel to countries or areas where mosquito-borne diseases are endemic or epidemic and where exposure is likely, those aged 2 months or above can use DEET-containing insect repellents with a DEET concentration of up to 30 per cent.

The public should call 1823 in case of mosquito problems and may visit the following pages for more information: the DF page of the [CHP](#) and the [Travel Health Service](#), the latest [Travel Health News](#), [tips for using insect repellents](#), and the CHP [Facebook Page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#).

Monetary Authority suspends registration of Li Shek-tang for nine months

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

The Monetary Authority (MA) has taken disciplinary action against Mr Li Shek-tang pursuant to section 58A(1) of the Banking Ordinance (Chapter 155 of the Laws of Hong Kong) (BO) and suspended all of Li's relevant particulars from the register maintained by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) under section 20(1)(ea) of the BO (Register) for a period of nine months from September 4, 2024, to June 3, 2025 (Note).

The disciplinary action follows an investigation by the HKMA which found that Li photocopied a customer's signature on a time deposit application form (Form) in March 2023 in an attempt to deceive his employing bank into believing that the Form was originally signed by the customer. Whilst Li's conduct was not performed during the course of carrying on a regulated activity under the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong) (SFO), it called into question his ability to carry on regulated activities with integrity and honesty. The MA is of the opinion

that Li is not a fit and proper person to be a relevant individual having regard to section 129(1)(c) and (d) of the SFO as well as the Fit and Proper Guidelines issued by the Securities and Futures Commission.

The Executive Director (Enforcement and AML) of the HKMA, Mr Raymond Chan, said, "Fabrication of a client's signature is a dishonest act. It reflects adversely on the person's fitness and properness to carry on regulated activities. The HKMA observes that there has been a rise in the number of enforcement cases involving fabrication of client signatures recently. We are working with the Hong Kong Association of Banks to remind banks of the need for building a strong compliance culture within their sales teams through regular training."

Note: At the material time, Li was a relevant individual whose name was entered in the Register as a person engaged by Hang Seng Bank, Limited in respect of Types 1, 4 and 7 regulated activities under the SFO. At present, Li is a relevant individual accredited to another authorized institution.

[Speech by FS at Hong Kong Sports Economy & Tourism Summit \(English only\) \(with photos/video\)](#)

Following is the speech by the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, at the Hong Kong Sports Economy & Tourism Summit today (September 6):

王晨 (Secretary General of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mr Wang Songmiao), 王岐山 (Deputy Commissioner of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR Mr Pan Yundong), Catherine (Chief Executive Officer of the South China Morning Post, Ms Catherine So), Tammy (Editor-in-Chief of the SCMP, Ms Tammy Tam), Peter (President of the Hong Kong Golf Club, Dr Peter Lam), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. It is my great pleasure to join SCMP's Hong Kong Sports Economy and Tourism Summit. Despite the typhoon, I am delighted to see so many of you here. You have truly demonstrated your passion for sports.

The remarkable performances of athletes from Hong Kong and our country at the Paris Olympics and Paralympics have ignited a widespread enthusiasm for sports. While much discussion has focused on supporting local sports development, there is still much space to be filled, regarding how to harness sports as a driver for tourism and the economy. This makes today's Summit particularly timely.

Economic benefits of sports tourism

Sports tourism is a rapidly growing sector globally, capturing the attention of governments, authorities, and NGOs alike. The United Nations World Tourism Organization estimates that sports tourism accounts for approximately 10 per cent of global tourism spending, with projections indicating an annual growth rate of over 17 per cent between 2023 and 2030. Clearly, this is a high-growth area.

Of course, countries around the world not only recognise the economic advantages of investing in sports, but more importantly the social benefits of sports – primarily for enhancing the health and well-being of their citizens. Improved physical health and fitness, as well as mental health of citizens, through sports help generate positive energy in our community, resulting not just in lower medical expenses, but lower social cost for society as a whole.

And not to mention the power of sports in uniting a people, a city and a country.

Across the globe, economies are leveraging major sporting events to rejuvenate their cities through infrastructure development, city branding, and sports tourism. The recent Paris Olympics and Paralympics are a prime example, where the events have been deeply integrated into the city. Who could resist the allure of a beach volleyball game under the Eiffel Tower, or an equestrian competition at the Château de Versailles?

Economically speaking, the Paris Olympics are estimated to generate as much as 11.1 billion euros in net economic benefits, with 2.8 billion euros expected from tourism revenue alone.

The transformative impact is also evident in cities like Hangzhou, which hosted the Asian Games last year. And Zhangjiakou too, where visitor numbers surged sixfold following the Beijing Winter Olympics in 2022.

Indeed, our country fully recognises the potential of sports tourism. The 14th Five-Year Tourism Development Plan identifies sports as one of the key components of tourism. It has set out concrete plans to build high-quality sports tourism routes and demonstration zones.

Our country is committed to integrating culture and tourism, encapsulated in the Chinese phrase "以文塑旅、以旅彰文", that is "shaping tourism with cultural activities and promoting culture through tourism". I think this same principle applies to sports, where we will shape tourism with sports, or "以体育旅、以旅彰文".

Hong Kong's efforts

The global experience offers valuable insights for our city. We understand the significance of sports in attracting tourists, enhancing our

city's brand, and boosting the economy.

A prime example is Hong Kong Sevens, which attracted 75 000 visitors last year, with 40 per cent being international tourists.

I want to share that during the peak of the COVID pandemic in Hong Kong back in February 2022, amid unprecedented challenges, we made a bold decision to back the return of Hong Kong Sevens in November that year, after a two-year hiatus. The decision was not an easy one, but was made out of our firm belief that mega sports events play a crucial role in helping us re-embrace and reconnect with the rest of the world.

We are also eager to welcome new events, such as LIV Golf which has emerged as a new brand for our city. This year, the tournament featured 54 top golfers, including 14 major champions, and was broadcast in 110 countries, attracting visitors from around 30 nations. I am pleased to note that it will be returning in March next year.

The fact that LIV Golf is a widely respected professional event backed by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund exemplifies how sports can connect diverse places, people, and institutions. I want to extend my gratitude to LIV Golf, and the Hong Kong Golf Club, for making it happen.

We will continue to support the hosting of more high-quality international major sports events, given their significant benefits to our community and economy.

World-class infrastructure: Kai Tak Sports Park

Beyond hosting a diverse array of events, Hong Kong is actively investing in top-notch sports infrastructure. The Kai Tak Sports Park represents our city's most significant investment in sports facilities in recent decades. Set to open in the first half of 2025, it will include a main stadium that could accommodate 50 000 spectators, as well as ancillary training and support facilities for our athletes. Together, they will create a platform for world-class sports competitions and entertainment events.

However, let us regard the Kai Tak Sports Park not just as a collection of facilities but as a vibrant theatre that connects people, places, cultures, and possibilities. We envision this new landmark to become an international spotlight, and a popular destination for events, offering unparalleled experiences.

The key lies in the content. It is essential to ensure that the events and programmes would cater to the needs and interests of both local residents and international visitors. Effective marketing of these events is also crucial for attracting participation. When people flock to events, businesses will naturally follow.

Looking ahead

But certainly, we can do more if we are to better harness the opportunities presented by sports events. Allow me to share two quick thoughts.

First, there is a strong case for further synergising sports events with MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions), large-scale festivals, and other tourism elements, such as dining, culture, theme parks, and in-depth explorations of the city. The goal is to offer a more diverse range of experiences for business travellers and tourists, giving them more reasons to visit Hong Kong, or if they are already planning to come, to extend their stay.

A good example was the return of Hong Kong Sevens in November 2022, as I alluded to earlier, which was held back-to-back with our inaugural Global Financial Leaders' Investment Summit. Many participating chairpersons and CEOs of global financial institutions stayed behind to join Hong Kong Sevens, bringing along their local colleagues and clients. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

Second, we can draw inspiration from the Paris Olympics and Paralympics, which serve as a compelling example of how sports can be seamlessly integrated into a city's fabric. This should encourage us to take a fresh look at Hong Kong. We boast a world-class harbour, a countryside filled with spectacular walking trails, and many scenic outlying islands with stunning coastlines. Are there new possibilities in sports that we can explore together? Let's think big.

Concluding remarks

Ladies and gentlemen, as we conclude today's Hong Kong Sports Economy & Tourism Summit, let's reflect on the invaluable insights we've gained from our panels and discussions. From exploring global trends in sports tourism to examining the impact of the Olympics on our economy, you have given some good thoughts to the roadmap of enhancing Hong Kong's sports economy. These insights will serve as important reference for the Government as we move forward. What is now required is transforming shared vision into actionable steps that will elevate Hong Kong as a leading sports destination in Asia and beyond. Thank you very much indeed.



Hong Kong's latest foreign currency reserve assets figures released

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announced today (September 6) that the official foreign currency reserve assets of Hong Kong amounted to US\$423.4 billion as at the end of August 2024 (end-July 2024: US\$419.1 billion) (Annex).

Including unsettled foreign exchange contracts, the foreign currency reserve assets of Hong Kong at the end of August 2024 amounted to US\$422.8 billion (end-July 2024: US\$418.5 billion).

The total foreign currency reserve assets of US\$423.4 billion represent over five times the currency in circulation or about 39 per cent of Hong Kong dollar M3.

At present, four press releases relating to the Exchange Fund's data are issued by the HKMA each month. Three of these releases are issued to disseminate monetary data in accordance with International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). The fourth press release, on the Exchange Fund's Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account, is made in accordance with the HKMA's policy of maintaining a high level of transparency. For the month of September 2024, the scheduled dates for issuing the press releases are as follows:

September 6	SDDS International Reserves (Hong Kong's Latest Foreign Currency Reserve Assets Figures)
September 13	SDDS Analytical Accounts of the Central Bank (Analytical Accounts of the Exchange Fund)
September 30	SDDS Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity
September 30	Exchange Fund Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account

Second round of Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus (RAISe+) Scheme opens for applications

The Innovation and Technology Commission today (September 6) announced the launch of the second round of application of the Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus (RAISe+) Scheme. The deadline for application will be October 31, 2024. Eligible universities are welcome to apply.

"The scheme was well received by the universities in the first round of applications. The ITC encourages universities to continue their active participation in this round with a view to incentivising collaboration among industry, academic and research sectors and accelerate the '1 to N' transformation and commercialisation of research and development outcomes," a spokesman for the Commission said.

With a funding allocation of \$10 billion, the RAISe+ Scheme was launched in 2023 and aims to fund at least 100 research teams from universities funded by the University Grants Committee that have good potential to become successful start-ups on a matching basis to transform and commercialise their research and development outcomes. Funding support from \$10 million to \$100 million will be provided to each approved project. Assessment criteria include the innovation and technology (I&T) component of the project, commercial viability of project outcomes, technical and management capability of the team, relevance of the project with government policies or the overall interest of the community, and financial considerations of the project.

The ITC announced the first batch of 24 projects confirming participation in the RAISe+ Scheme in May this year. They cover I&T fields in health and medical sciences, new materials and new energy, artificial intelligence and robotics, electrical and electronic engineering, engineering, advanced manufacturing, Chinese medicine, and environmental, agricultural and marine biotechnology with the total funding amounting to over \$1 billion.

Details of the scheme are available on its dedicated website (www.itf.gov.hk/en/raiseplus). For enquiries, please contact the Secretariat of the Scheme (Tel: 3655 5678; email: raiseplus@itc.gov.hk).