

# Suspension of Immigration Services owing to Tropical Cyclone

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at suitable intervals:

The Immigration Department announces that, as the Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 is expected to remain in force at least until noon tomorrow (September 6), services at the Immigration Headquarters and all Branch Offices, Registration of Persons Offices, and Births, Deaths and Marriage Registries tomorrow morning will be temporarily suspended until further notice.

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## Employers, contractors and employees should be aware of electrical safety at work during rainstorm

As the rainstorm warning has been issued by the Hong Kong Observatory, the Labour Department (LD) reminds employers and contractors that they should adopt necessary work arrangements and take suitable safety measures to protect the safety of their employees when they are carrying out electrical work or handling electrical plant.

A spokesman for the LD said today (September 5) that employers and contractors should avoid assigning employees to carry out electrical work (like electric arc welding work) or handle electrical plant at places affected by rainstorms, and should refer to the "Code of Practice in Times of Adverse Weather and 'Extreme Conditions'" and the "Guide on Safety at Work in times of Inclement Weather" issued by the LD.

Even if electrical work is carried out or electrical plant is handled at places not affected by the rainstorm, suitable safety measures must still be adopted to prevent electric shock as the air would be more humid. Such measures include:

(i) Ensure that all live parts of an electrical installation are isolated from the power supply source and rendered dead, and the isolation from the power supply source must be maintained as long as electrical work is being carried out;

(ii) Before carrying out any electrical work or handling any electrical plant, cut off and lock out the power supply source, then test the circuit concerned to confirm it is dead and display suitable warning notices, and issue a work permit thereafter;

(iii) Ensure that protective devices (such as suitable and adequate fuses and circuit breakers) for the electrical installations or electrical plant have been installed and maintained in good working order, and portable electric tools must be double-insulated or properly earthed;

(iv) Provide suitable personal protective equipment such as insulating gloves and insulating mats for employees; and

(v) If live electrical work is unavoidable, a comprehensive risk assessment should be conducted by a competent person and the appropriate safety precautions should be taken to remove or properly control the electrical hazards involved before such work can proceed.

In addition, employees should co-operate with the employer or contractor to follow the safety instructions and use the safety equipment provided.

The LD has published guidebooks and leaflets on electrical work safety. These safety publications are available free from divisional offices of the department or can be downloaded from its website ([www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/content2\\_8.htm](http://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/content2_8.htm)).

Should there be any questions about occupational safety and health matters, please contact the Occupational Safety Officer of the LD at 2559 2297.

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## **Public urged to report flooding**

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at suitable intervals:

Members of the public are advised to report any street flooding that comes to their notice to the Drainage Services Department by calling the 24-hour drainage hotline on 2300 1110.

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## Public urged not to visit beaches for water sports activities during passage of typhoon (2)

Attention TV/ radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

As Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 is in force, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (September 5) that all gazetted beaches under its management are temporarily closed. In accordance with the Bathing Beaches Regulation under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132, sub. leg. E), any failure to comply with the temporary closure arrangements is an offence and the offender will be liable to a maximum fine of \$2,000 and imprisonment up to 14 days upon conviction.

Members of the public should stay away from the shoreline during inclement weather, and should not conduct any water sports activities on beaches to avoid causing danger to themselves and rescue personnel.

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## FS concludes visit to Australia (with photos/video)

The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, concluded his visit to Sydney, Australia, today (September 5, Sydney time). He continued to promote Hong Kong's business advantages to local business leaders.

In the morning, Mr Chan attended a roundtable breakfast meeting organised by HSBC, where he shared updates on Hong Kong's latest economic situation and development directions with over 10 representatives from various sectors including the trade, financial services, green finance, fintech and professional services. They also exchanged views on promoting bilateral investments, trade and green and sustainable financial collaboration between Hong Kong and Australia.

At noon, Mr Chan attended a business luncheon organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Sydney to introduce Hong Kong's development directions and policies in financial services and innovation and technology, as well as the development opportunities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). The luncheon was attended by over 150 senior representatives from Australian industrial and commercial sector, financial

institutions, investment institutions, enterprises and chambers of commerce.

Mr Chan detailed four unique advantages of Hong Kong's financial sector and the opportunities it could create for Australian enterprises. First, he highlighted the financing market of Hong Kong, pointing out that Hong Kong has a deep and wide financing market, with continuous improvements made to the stock market. Over the past few years, new regimes were introduced to facilitate new economy companies and specialist technology companies to list on the stock market. Private equity and hedge funds in Hong Kong are substantial in scale, while mutual access programmes have been established between the financial markets of Hong Kong and the Mainland covering stocks, bonds, exchange-traded funds, and even derivatives. These have allowed Australian companies in Hong Kong to assess both Mainland and global capital at the same time while managing risks effectively.

Second, in respect of green and sustainable finance, Hong Kong is a green finance hub in Asia, accounting for one-third of Asia's green bond issuances, and is the ideal place for green and sustainable financing, with its green standards highly aligned with international benchmarks.

Third, Hong Kong serves as an important offshore Renminbi hub. The global use of the Renminbi as an exchange and reserve currency is growing. Hong Kong, as a global offshore Renminbi hub, has an RMB liquidity pool of over RMB1 trillion as well as diversified investment and risk management products that are continuously being enriched. These have enabled Australian companies to use their RMB for investment and risk management purposes more effectively.

Fourth, Hong Kong serves as an asset management centre. He pointed out that Hong Kong has robust asset management businesses, with assets under management amounting to over USD4 trillion, and over 2 700 single-family offices. World-leading asset management institutions are expanding their businesses in Hong Kong. With a growing demand for wealth management products projected from the 87 million people in the GBA, and the expansion of Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect (WMC) in the GBA, the Australian asset and wealth management institutions could establish bases in Hong Kong and expand to the Mainland, as well as the broader Asia and beyond.

Mr Chan also introduced the developments of innovation and technology in Hong Kong, and initiatives and progress in attracting businesses and talent. He also encouraged Australian enterprises to establish their foothold in Hong Kong.

During the luncheon, a number of leaders from Australia's banking, accounting, consultancy and asset management industries shared their observations on the advantages of Hong Kong's financial market as well as its role as an asset and wealth management centre, their experiences in operating businesses in Hong Kong, and how Australian companies can leverage Hong Kong to open up a larger market.

In the afternoon, Mr Chan had a roundtable discussion with senior staff



of over 10 financial institutions. They exchanged views on developing businesses in asset management, family offices, fintech, green finance and green technology in Hong Kong.

Mr Chan summed up his visit to Australia, "Through exchanges with the commercial and industrial sectors in Australia, this visit has promoted mutual understanding and bilateral co-operation for the future. We briefed them on Hong Kong's current situation and key areas for future development, highlighting the opportunities in Hong Kong and the GBA and sharing positive stories from both places. Meanwhile, Australian companies in life and health technology, green energy, fintech, asset and wealth management, agricultural products, and wineries have commonly expressed interest in leveraging Hong Kong to expand further into Mainland and Asian markets. I hope that Hong Kong and Australia will deepen co-operation to create more opportunities for the trade, industry, finance, and innovation sectors in both regions."

Mr Chan departed for Hong Kong in the evening.



