

Remarks by SLW on talent attraction and importation of labour

Following is the remarks by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr Chris Sun, on talent attraction and importation of labour at a media session after attending a radio programme this morning (August 31) :

Reporter: For the Top Talent Pass Scheme (TTPS), it seems that a lot of them are from the Mainland instead of attracting international talent. Do you think it has actually defeated the purpose of the scheme?

Secretary for Labour and Welfare: I don't think so. Speaking of international talent, I think it is more important for us to look at their ability and perspective rather than just their nationality. I can give you an example. Category C of TTPS refers to fresh graduates of eligible universities in the past five years with less than three years of work experience after graduation. If you look at where they are graduating from, the biggest category is those graduating from universities in the United States. While they may be Mainlanders, they received their higher education in America. Obviously they have a more international perspective. With these people in Hong Kong, I am sure they are going to bring benefits and add value to our economy.

Reporter: How about the Bureau's future planning in recruiting more talent? Could you give any details on the direction of the review of the scheme, and why is the Bureau eyeing talent from Malaysia?

Secretary for Labour and Welfare: Now that the TTPS has been put in place for around one and a half years, with the set up of Hong Kong Talent Engage, we have the manpower to conduct more overseas promotion. Having done a desk research, we believe the first stop we should go to is obviously Southeast Asia. Among Southeast Asian countries, we believe Malaysia is the most appropriate place that we should go for, because there are lots of ethnic Chinese in Malaysia. Most of them are trilingual as they can speak fluent English, Putonghua as well as Cantonese. We believe by attracting more Malaysian, in particular Malaysian Chinese, to Hong Kong, it is going to bring benefit to Hong Kong and they are more likely to assimilate into Hong Kong much more easily.

Reporter: Lastly, could you give an update on importation of labour? How many applications have the Bureau received since rolling out the scheme? How many of them are expected to arrive by the end of this year?

Secretary for Labour and Welfare: Up to this moment, under the Enhanced Supplementary Labour Scheme, the number of imported workers we have approved is around 21 000. Once we have granted these applications, employers have to apply the visas for their imported labour within six months. The exact moment of their arrival depends on whether or not the employers are going to make use of the quota allocated when they are allowed to import labour into Hong

Kong. Thank you.

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

Reappointment to Law Reform Commission

The following is issued on behalf of the Law Reform Commission:

The Law Reform Commission (LRC) today (August 31) announced that Mr Justice Johnson Lam Man-hon has been reappointed by the Chief Executive as a member of the LRC for a second three-year term with effect from September 1, 2024.

Mr Justice Lam is currently a permanent judge of the Court of Final Appeal of Hong Kong. He has abundant experience in civil law reform, public law and constitutional law. The LRC believes that Mr Justice Lam's broad expertise in civil cases will continue to add to the diversity of experience in the LRC.

With this latest reappointment, the LRC will comprise the following members:

Secretary for Justice (Chairman)
Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal (ex officio member)
Law Draftsman (ex officio member)
Mr Justice Johnson Lam Man-hon
Ms Winnie Tam Wan-chi, SC
Ms May Chan Suk-mei
Professor Lutz-Christian Wolff
Mr Stephen Hung Wan-shun
Mrs Janice Choi Kwan Wing-kum
Mr Chan Chak-ming
Mrs Margaret Leung Ko May-yee
Professor Alexander Loke
Professor Michael Jackson

FS to visit Australia tomorrow

The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, will depart for Australia early morning tomorrow (September 1). He will visit Melbourne and Sydney, where he will meet with members of the local business, finance, and innovation and technology sectors, as well as visit various enterprises. He will also attend

a number of luncheons organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Sydney in collaboration with local chambers of commerce and groups to explain Hong Kong's latest situation and business advantages. He will also meet with Hong Kong residents living there. When in Melbourne, Mr Chan will also attend the Asia Summit organised by the Australian Financial Review in partnership with the Asia Society Australia, where he will deliver a keynote speech.

Mr Chan is scheduled to depart for Hong Kong on September 5 evening, and will arrive in Hong Kong in the morning of September 6. During his absence, the Deputy Financial Secretary, Mr Michael Wong, will be the Acting Financial Secretary.

Red flags hoisted at some beaches

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (August 31) that due to big waves, red flags have been hoisted at Stanley Main Beach and Shek O Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island; and Clear Water Bay Second Beach in Sai Kung District. Beachgoers are advised not to swim at these beaches.

Regional flag day today

Three charities have been issued Public Subscription Permits to hold flag sales from 7am to 12.30pm today (August 31). They are, on Hong Kong Island, Taishan Charitable Association Limited; in Kowloon, Kwun Tong Resident Association; and in the New Territories, the Parents' Association of Pre-school Handicapped Children, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) said.

Arrangements have been made with the charities to help people to distinguish among the three flag-selling activities.

Information on the three flag-selling organisations on August 31 is as follows:

Region	Name of organisation	Colour of collection bag	Colour of flag
Hong Kong Island	Taishan Charitable Association Limited	White	Magenta
Kowloon	Kwun Tong Resident Association	Orange	Orange
New Territories	The Parents' Association of Pre-school Handicapped Children	Red	Blue

Details of the charitable fund-raising activities, including any updated information, covered by the issued Public Subscription Permits have been published on the GovHK website (www.gov.hk/en/theme/fundraising/search). Permits for flag days containing information on contact methods of the flag-selling organisations and the approved flag-selling activities have also been uploaded to the SWD's website (www.swd.gov.hk/en/ngo/controlofc/flagdays) for reference. For enquiries, please call the SWD's hotline at 2343 2255, or the designated hotline of the 1823 Call Centre at 3142 2678.

In the case of suspected fraudulent flag day activities, people should not make any donation and should immediately report the matter to the Police, the spokesman added.