

Labour Department to hold briefing for employers of foreign domestic helpers

The Labour Department (LD) will hold a briefing on the employment of foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) on April 29 (Tuesday), at 7pm at the Lecture Theatre of the Hong Kong Central Library, 66 Causeway Road, Causeway Bay. Enrolment is now open.

The briefing will provide an overview of the employment rights and obligations of employers of FDHs. A representative from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data will also speak on the protection of personal data privacy for employers and FDHs. Employers of FDHs, especially first-time employers, are welcome to attend.

The briefing will be conducted in Cantonese, and admission is free. Interested parties may register online at the LD's dedicated FDH Portal (www.fdh.labour.gov.hk/en/home.html), or download the enrolment form (www.fdh.labour.gov.hk/res/pdf/Enrolment_Form_ER.pdf) for submission by email (fdh-enquiry@labour.gov.hk) or by fax (3101 0604). The deadline for enrolment is April 25 (Friday). The quota will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. For enquiries, please contact the LD at 3582 8995.

Statement by DoJ on Mrs Nina Wang's estate

Regarding the case of the estate of the late Mrs Nina Wang, the Department of Justice (DoJ) today (March 28) made the following statement:

The DoJ in its press release on January 6, 2025 announced that Nina Wang Charity Management Limited (Trustee) was appointed as the trustee of the charitable trust of the estate of the late Mrs Wang (Estate), and three independent individuals were also appointed as members of the supervisory managing organisation (SMO) responsible for supervising the operation of the Trustee. The Trustee has now formed its board of governors.

The Court of First Instance of the High Court has approved the application of the Secretary for Justice (SJ) to appoint the Trustee as the trustee of the Estate on November 21, 2024. The DoJ has long been providing suitable support and assistance in respect of related preliminary work, including identifying suitable candidates for appointment as members of the SMO responsible for supervising the operation of the Trustee, and assisting the Trustee in forming its board of governors, to facilitate the Trustee in

properly and expeditiously making use of the Estate for charitable purposes pursuant to the scheme of administration for the Estate (the Scheme) approved by the Court, and to fulfil Mrs Wang's testamentary wishes and bring benefits to the country, including various sectors of Hong Kong society. The SJ has already appointed three independent individuals, namely Mrs Rita Fan Hsu Lai-tai, Mr Joseph Yam Chi-kwong and Mr Cheng Yan-kee, as members of the SM0.

The Trustee has now officially appointed five independent individuals, namely Ms Annie Tam Kam-lan, Mr Rimsky Yuen Kwok-keung SC, Mr Clement Chan Kam-wing, Mr Ronick Chan Chun-ying and Dr Lam Ching-choi, along with two appointed government officials, namely the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Mr Christopher Hui, and the Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs Miss Alice Mak, to be members of the board of governors of the Trustee.

The DoJ believes that under the supervision of the SM0, the board of governors will promptly commence the relevant preparatory work and do its utmost in administering the charitable trust, including preparing for and settling the details of a "fund and a Chinese prize of worldwide significance similar to that of the Nobel Prize" and other charitable projects. The DoJ will continue to follow up on the remaining legal proceedings and related arrangements until the Estate is fully vested in the Trustee from the interim administrators.

The Trustee will in due course disclose the Scheme and other related information pursuant to the terms of the Scheme and its Articles of Association at a suitable time.

Appointment to Hong Kong Trade Development Council announced

The Government announced today (March 28) the reappointment of incumbent member Ms Ronna Chao Wei-ting to the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) for a term of two years with effect from May 1, 2025.

Appointments of members to the HKTDC are made by the Financial Secretary in exercise of the powers delegated to him by the Chief Executive and pursuant to section 11(1)(d) of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council Ordinance (Chapter 1114).

The Government has announced earlier the appointment of Professor Frederick Ma Si-hang as Chairman of the HKTDC for a term of two years from June 1, 2025.

The composition of the HKTDC with effect from June 1, 2025, is as

follows:

Chairman

Professor Frederick Ma Si-hang

Members

Ms Shirley Chan Suk-ling

Ms Ronna Chao Wei-ting

Dr Lin Yong

Mr Victor Chu Lap-lik

Dr Sunny Chai Ngai-chiu

Dr Kennedy Wong Ying-ho

Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Director of Information Services

Chairman of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce

Chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries

President of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong

Chairman of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong

Chairman of the Hong Kong Tourism Board

Chairman of the Hong Kong Association of Banks

Representative member of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce

Representative member of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries

Representative member of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong

Representative member of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong

Banking (Amendment) Bill 2025 gazetted

The Government published in the Gazette today (March 28) the Banking (Amendment) Bill 2025, which seeks to facilitate the sharing of information among authorized institutions (AIs) under specified conditions to enhance the efficiency in detecting and preventing crime in Hong Kong.

The Bill proposes to introduce a voluntary mechanism for AIs to share with each other information of corporate and individual accounts through secure platforms to be designated by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), when they become aware of suspected prohibited conduct (i.e. money laundering, terrorist financing or financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction). The proposed mechanism will enable AIs and relevant law enforcement agencies to take swift actions for earlier interception of illicit funds and expedite intelligence gathering so that the public will be better protected from fraud and associated money laundering activities, etc.

The Bill will provide legal protection for AIs that disclose information under the mechanism, provided that the AIs making the disclosure act in good

faith and with reasonable care, and comply with specified confidentiality requirements. The information disclosed must only be used for detecting or preventing a prohibited form of conduct. AIs participating in the mechanism must also put in place adequate systems of control to ensure the security of the information.

The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui, said, "The proposed mechanism will enable us to better address the global trend of increasing fraud and associated money laundering activities, and is in line with international practice. It will help protect Hong Kong's banking system from being exploited for carrying out prohibited conduct, and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre."

The Chief Executive of the HKMA, Mr Eddie Yue, said, "The proposed mechanism is a crucial step in our efforts to combat fraud and other financial crime. We believe it will further enhance the ability of the banking sector and law enforcement agencies to detect and prevent illicit activities, thereby safeguarding the integrity of Hong Kong's banking system."

The HKMA conducted a public consultation on the proposed mechanism from January to March 2024. The views collected in the consultation indicated general support for the proposal. The HKMA also consulted the Hong Kong Association of Banks and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data on the detailed proposals of the Bill.

The Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council for first reading on April 2.

Appointments to Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Review Tribunal

The Government announced today (March 28) that the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury has appointed Dr Jack Kong Jianping, Mr Alan Ng Man-sang, Professor Raymond Wong Man-kong and Ms Alice Yip Ka-ming as panel members of the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Review Tribunal. Ms Florence Chan Yuen-shan was reappointed as a panel member. The tenure for all will last for a term of three years, effective from April 1, 2025.

A spokesman for the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau said, "The five panel members have rich experience in their respective professional fields and in public service. We are confident that they will help lead the Tribunal to operate effectively."

The spokesman also expressed sincere gratitude to two outgoing members, Professor Tam Kar-yan and Ms Joan Ho Yuk-wai, for their valuable contributions to the Tribunal during their tenure.

The Tribunal is established under the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance (Cap. 615) to review specified decisions made under the Ordinance by a relevant authority (including the Monetary Authority, the Securities and Futures Commission, the Insurance Authority, the Registrar of Companies, and the Commissioner of Customs and Excise).