

# Observatory enhances Very Hot Weather Warning service (with photos)

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) and the Senior Citizen Home Safety Association (SCHSA) held a joint press conference today (May 26) to introduce the enhanced Very Hot Weather Warning service, and to remind the public to get prepared for the very hot weather in summer.

The HKO enhanced the Very Hot Weather Warning service today, launching a new Special Weather Tips in response to extreme heat conditions and updating the precautions of the warning. When the Very Hot Weather Warning is in force, and if the temperature generally reaches the extreme level (35.0 degrees or above), the HKO will issue a Special Weather Tips and deliver it through push notification of the "MyObservatory" mobile application to alert the public of the extremely hot weather and to take appropriate precautions.

In 2022, there were 15 days with a daily maximum temperature at the headquarters of the HKO equal to 35.0 degrees or above, the highest on record. As the climate continues to warm, the annual mean temperature in Hong Kong in 2023 is expected to be above normal, with a high chance of reaching the warmest top 10 on record. The Acting Assistant Director of the HKO, Mr Cheng Yuen-chung, reminded the public, "Under the influence of the outer subsiding air of Tropical Cyclone Mawar, there may be extremely hot weather over Southern China early to midweek next week. Members of the public should pay attention to the change in weather and take adequate protective measures against the heat."

The HKO has been working with universities and partners to study the impact of very hot weather on public health, and to work together to revise the precautions of the Very Hot Weather Warning to include groups that are more vulnerable to heat stroke, and to include protective measures against the heat for extremely hot conditions. The Department of Health reminds that elderly persons, pregnant women, infants and children, those with chronic illnesses, such as heart disease or high blood pressure, as well as the obese, are more vulnerable to heat stroke. Any symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke should be closely monitored. Beware of health conditions under extremely hot weather, ensure adequate rest, drink more water, and avoid overheating of the body. Seek medical advice promptly if feeling unwell. The Labour Department also reminds those who are at work in hot weather or high-temperature environments to refer to the "Guidance Notes on Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work" of the Labour Department and take necessary precautions against the heat.

The Acting Chief Executive Officer of the SCHSA, Mr Johnny Yuen, said, "The elderly belongs to the group more vulnerable to heat stroke. In very hot weather, the elderly may feel unwell more easily. Those living in more crowded homes without air conditioning belong to the high-risk group." Besides, the Chief Executive Officer of the SCHSA, Ms Maura Wong, urged the elderly and their relatives are urged to pay attention to the latest weather

information from the HKO, or check the weather of the day and related health information through the "Care-On-Call" service platform. With mutual support, the elderly can stay healthy and safe.

For more information on protection against the heat, please visit the following websites:

The HKO on precautions of the Very Hot Weather Warning:  
[www.hko.gov.hk/en/wservice/warning/coldhot.htm](http://www.hko.gov.hk/en/wservice/warning/coldhot.htm)

The Department of Health "Beware of Heat Stroke":  
[www.chp.gov.hk/en/static/90064.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/static/90064.html)

The Labour Department "Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work":  
[www.labour.gov.hk/eng/news/prevention\\_of\\_heat\\_stroke\\_at\\_work.htm](http://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/news/prevention_of_heat_stroke_at_work.htm)

The Home Affairs Department on temporary heat shelters:  
[www.had.gov.hk/en/public\\_services/emergency\\_services/emergency.htm](http://www.had.gov.hk/en/public_services/emergency_services/emergency.htm)



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## [Speech by SED at Forum for World Education Hong Kong Regional Conference 2023 on Linking Industry and Education \(English only\) \(with photo\)](#)

Following is the keynote speech by the Secretary for Education, Dr Choi Yuk-lin, at the panel session entitled "Linking Industry and Education" at the Forum for World Education Hong Kong Regional Conference 2023 today (May 26):

Dear honorable guests,

Good afternoon. It gives me great pleasure to join you all at the

Regional Conference of the 2023 Forum for World Education here in Hong Kong today, exchanging views on how we have learned from the disruption caused by the pandemic and consider longer term challenge and change.

The theme of this Conference is "The Transformative Power of International Education for a Better World", and the session this afternoon will focus on "Linking Industry and Education". It is indeed a very timely and imminent issue facing every policy maker around the world, including us in Hong Kong. As innovation and technological advancements sweep through the world, the workplace is undergoing rapid transformation. Many jobs will require entirely different skillsets or even become non-existent in the not-too-distant future, while many completely novel jobs will evolve. It is therefore of utmost importance that we should rethink our education strategies and take a proactive approach in equipping our young talent with skills that are relevant and applicable in the future, in order to enable our younger generations to realise their potentials and showcase their talents, maintain the competitiveness of our city and continue to create strong impetus for our future development.

The HKSAR (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) Government strongly believes that the prospects of individuals, the well-being of families, the qualities of people and the progress of civilisation all hinge on education. Through providing quality and diversified education pathways, we cater for the learning needs of students at different stages and helps them become lifelong learners who are virtuous and able, with knowledge and insights, a sense of responsibility, a global perspective, positive values and attitudes, love for the country and the city, as well as being ready for future challenges and opportunities. Among others, we have been according priority to promoting the Vocational and Professional Education and Training (VPET) pathway as a preferred choice, with a view to enabling young people to acquire work skills for the future, applied knowledge in innovation and technology, and critical soft skills for career progression in the new digital age, achieving "masters of each trade".

In fact VPET has always been a key driver of manpower development in Hong Kong for meeting the needs of the ever-changing economy. We have all along been committed to providing quality, flexible, and diversified study pathways with multiple entry and exit points for young people with different aspirations and abilities through VPET. To strengthen our efforts in promoting VPET in a more targeted manner, the Chief Executive announced in his Policy Address last year that we would step up our efforts through the strategy of fostering industry-institution collaboration and diversified development, adopting a multi-pronged approach at different levels to further promote VPET as a pathway parallel to conventional academic education, encouraging the alignment of classroom education with industry needs, encouraging collaboration between businesses and education institutions, and providing diversified learning and employment opportunities, with a view to enhancing the VPET progression pathway to nurture more high-quality talent with applied skills.

We recognise that the VPET pathway comprises education opportunities at different levels of the education system, from secondary school, diploma

qualification to undergraduate studies and beyond. In addition to our on-going efforts, including enabling our students to have early exposure to VPET through applied learning subjects, we have been bold in embarking on new endeavours to strengthen the VPET progression pathway. Among others, we have launched the Pilot Project on the Development of Applied Degree Programmes, which aims to address the concern about the lack of articulation opportunity at degree level in our education system. Through the Pilot Project, we support and encourage post-secondary institutions in launching applied degree programmes, which should be equivalent to those of conventional academic degrees in standard and level, while applied degrees should have an applied focus blending theory and practice, provide substantial internships and work-based learning experience, and with strong industry involvement and recognition, thereby preparing graduates for a specific trade or industry readily. We are pleased to note that the first phase of the Pilot Project has received very positive response from the tertiary sector, the industries, as well as other stakeholders, and the four programmes which are in disciplines with keen manpower needs, namely nursing; testing and certification; horticulture, arboriculture and landscape management; and gerontology, have been successfully launched last year. Building on the positive experience and to further promote the concept of applied degrees, we are working with a number of post-secondary institutions to launch the second phase of the Pilot Project, and the second batch of the applied degree programmes are expected to be launched in 2024 the earliest. We are confident that the continued development of applied degrees in Hong Kong will further strengthen the positioning of VPET at degree level and complement our VPET progression pathway.

In addition, the Government has also completed the Review on the Sub-degree Education in Hong Kong, which aims to support our policy to develop the VPET progression pathway in parallel to the traditional academic pathway. We are pleased to note that, as demonstrated in the results of our consultation with stakeholders and the Legislative Council, our community unanimously agrees that there should be a sharper differentiation between the two sub-degree qualifications, which are the associated degrees which support students' articulation to academic degrees, and the higher diplomas which have a strong emphasis on VPET. Taking on board the valuable advice we have received, we have also revamped the design and structure of higher diplomas, such as ensuring the close collaboration between programme providers and industry partners at different stages of the design and delivery of the programmes such that the curriculum could support the needs of industries; providing sufficient work-based/project-based learning and placement opportunities to enable students to apply their knowledge in real world situations; and providing clear information about articulation and progression pathways, relevant industry and professional recognition, etc to allow students to learn about the graduate destination.

Apart from the various new efforts made within the education system, we are also committed to telling the good stories of Hong Kong and VPET, in particular after we have overcome the challenges of the pandemic. By organising an array of events and activities, we strive to enhance the public's positive understanding of VPET and promote its professional image.

The "Future Skills Community Event" organised by the Vocational Training Council (VTC) with the support of the Government last December was a successful case in point to showcase the talent of our VPET students and the opportunities that VPET may bring about. I am also thrilled that the Hong Kong delegation, which comprise VPET students from the VTC and other VPET organisations in Hong Kong, put up a marvelous performance in the "WorldSkills Competition 2022 Special Edition", which is considered the "Skills Olympics", bringing home 13 medals, including one gold and 12 medallions for excellence, which was a really exceptional result. The Government will continue support our young talent to realise their unique gifts and talents and rattle the stars through VPET.

The importance of VPET is beyond doubt. To enable the success of VPET development, there are also works to do to assist students to identify their interests, strengths and weakness, and thereby developing a clear mind on their aspirations and future development pathway. This self-identification process count on the Life Planning Education.

Life planning is an ongoing and lifelong process for personal fulfillment, with different foci at different stages of the life time. At the schooling stage, life planning education is one of the key components in promoting whole-person development, with the objectives of enabling students' self-understanding, personal planning, goal setting, as well as self-reflection and revision, and equipping students with the knowledge of various study, career and training pathways, work ethics and the working world.

The key learning elements of life planning education include "Self Understanding and Development", "Career Exploration", and "Life Planning and Management". We always encourage schools to deliver life planning education and career guidance service flexibly through various modes, such as life planning related lessons and workshops, career-related experience learning activities, individualised career guidance programmes, etc, within the school timetable or outside school hours. Since 2014, we have been providing enhanced support to secondary schools in the implementation of life planning education to better prepare students with the knowledge, skills and attitude to make informed choices in accordance with their interests, abilities and orientations in face of the available multiple pathways, including VPET, upon graduating from secondary schools. To this end, we have adopted a series of measures to support schools in implementing life planning education. These measures include the provision of additional manpower to school, enhancement of professional training for teachers through structured training courses and thematic seminars, development of online resources, such as the Life Planning Information Website, to provide students with updated information on different industries and multiple pathways, as well as handy tools for students to undertake career aptitude assessments and create learning portfolio, encouragement of greater participation of different sectors of the community in our Business-School Partnership Programme (BSPP) to provide students with various career exploration activities, etc.

As what I have just mentioned, "Career Exploration" is one of the key elements of life planning education. We have been collaborating with various

business corporations, government departments and community organisations through the BSPP to provide students with diversified career exploration activities, such as workplace visits, career talks, workshops, work experience programmes, etc. The BSPP leads students out of the classroom so that they can learn about different industries and gain a wider perspective of the career-world. Up till now, over 8 800 career exploration activities, covering more than 30 industries, have been co-organised with more than 500 BSPP partners, benefiting more than 1.3 million student participants.

This school year, to further widen students' exposure and enhance life planning education, we have launched BSPP 2.0 with more business partners covering more industries. We have been actively liaising with major chambers of commerce, professional bodies as well as small and medium enterprises to encourage more organisations to join the programme. As such, a greater number and variety of career exploration and work experience activities are provided to help students gain a better understanding of the workplace. As at April this year, we have successfully recruited more than 100 organisations having newly joined the programme. Among these organisations, 20 of them are emerging industries such as artificial intelligence, 3D printing, biotechnology and testing and certification.

BSPP 2.0 is expected to provide students with more and a wider range of career exploration activities. Among various career exploration activities, work experience programmes have been well received among students. We have mobilised different sectors to take part in work experience programmes. A series of Holiday Work Experience Programmes are being arranged during major school holidays. A series of Holiday Work Experience Programmes, which lasted for one to five days, were arranged during Christmas, Lunar New Year and Easter holidays from December 2022 to May 2023, offering about 800 quotas for students. Summer Holiday Work Experience Programme will be launched from June to August this year. Through first-hand experience of the actual operation in the workplace, senior secondary students can explore their interests and career orientations, and know more about the actual operation of different enterprises and the day-to-day work of different job positions.

With the concerted efforts from the business sector, I am confident that life planning education could help our students map their study and career pathways at an earlier stage and help nurture a pool of talents to contribute to the ongoing development of our city.

The Government will continue to spare no effort to provide quality and diversified education on both academic as well as vocational and professional training. With a sense of responsibility, visions and love for the country and the city, we stand ready to ride the wind and waves and breakthrough all the challenges.

I wish you all a wonderful afternoon. Thank you.



## EMSD releases latest lift maintenance cost information of private residential and commercial premises

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) today (May 26) released the latest maintenance cost information on lifts in private residential and commercial premises for public reference in choosing registered lift contractors.

The EMSD had earlier engaged an independent consultant to conduct a sampling survey on the maintenance costs of lifts in private residential and commercial buildings in Hong Kong. The consultant analysed the data collected from some 8 260 lifts at about 2 080 locations, and calculated the average monthly maintenance costs of the lifts as follows:

### Private residential buildings

Lift travel level	Rated speed of lift	Average monthly lift maintenance cost	Changes as compared with last survey (Note)
1 to 15	≤ 1.0m/s	\$4,886	+2.8%
	> 1.0m/s	\$5,586	+2.9%
16 to 25	≤ 1.5m/s	\$5,184	+2.1%
	> 1.5m/s	\$7,135	+2.2%
26 to 35	≤ 1.75m/s	\$6,264	+0.2%
	> 1.75m/s	\$9,252	+2.1%
More than 35	≤ 2.5m/s	\$9,637	+0.7%
	> 2.5m/s	\$10,040	+0.3%

Private commercial buildings

Lift travel level	Rated speed of lift	Average monthly lift maintenance cost	Changes as compared with last survey (Note)
1 to 15	≤ 1.5m/s	\$6,906	+1.3%
	> 1.5m/s	\$8,792	+1.1%
16 to 25	≤ 2.0m/s	\$7,970	+1.2%
	> 2.0m/s	\$11,758	+0.6%
26 to 35	≤ 3.0m/s	\$10,467	+3.1%
	> 3.0m/s	\$15,036	+1.1%
More than 35	≤ 3.5m/s	\$20,557	-0.9%
	> 3.5m/s	\$24,942	-5.3%

The cost information is available in the Responsible Persons' Corner on the EMSD's website ([www.emsd.gov.hk/en/lifts\\_and\\_escalators\\_safety/responsible\\_persons\\_corner/index.html](http://www.emsd.gov.hk/en/lifts_and_escalators_safety/responsible_persons_corner/index.html)). The EMSD will update it on a half-yearly basis.

In choosing registered lift contractors, the responsible persons for lifts are advised to make reference to the materials published in the Responsible Persons' Corner in addition to the price factor. The materials include:

- \* performance ratings of registered contractors;
- \* sample contracts for procurement of lift maintenance services;
- \* a guidebook for persons responsible for lifts;
- \* guidelines for selection of registered contractors for provision of maintenance services;
- \* guidelines for modernisation of existing lifts;
- \* guidelines for management of lift maintenance works;
- \* a checklist for building management staff to conduct daily safety inspection of lifts; and
- \* common questions and answers on lift management.

Note: The above price figures were updated on March 31, 2023, whereas the previous price figures were updated on September 30, 2022.

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[Speech by DCS at Forum for World](#)

# Education Hong Kong Regional Conference 2023 (English only) (with photo)

Following is the opening speech by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Cheuk Wing-hing, at Forum for World Education Hong Kong Regional Conference 2023 today (May 26):

Ms Shih (Chair of the Forum for World Education Hong Kong Steering Committee Member, Ms Edith Shih), Ms Pan (Board Member of the Forum for World Education, Ms Jun Pan), Professor Davis (President of the Forum for World Education, Professor Cheng Y Davis), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. I am delighted to join you today at the Forum for World Education's regional conference in Hong Kong. My thanks to the Forum for organising this seminal, two-day gathering, for bringing together educators, business leaders, policymakers and researchers from all over Asia and indeed around the world, here to exchange ideas, insight and intelligence on the latest education developments and the promising directions.

Education is the very foundation of economic, cultural and social progress. It is accorded top priority in the Hong Kong SAR Government's policy commitments. In the next few minutes, allow me to tell you about what we are doing in ensuring that education remains the centerpiece of Government policies.

To start with, education gets the lion's share of our spending, accounting for more than 20 per cent of our recurrent expenditure. In the current (2023-24) financial year, we estimate that our education expenditure will exceed HK\$104 billion (or US\$13 billion).

We promote the parallel development of publicly funded and self-financing, post-secondary education.

Today, more than 50 per cent of our young people have degree-level education opportunities. And some 80 per cent have access to post-secondary education.

We are dedicated to growing Hong Kong as a regional education hub.

That means attracting academic and research talent from around the world.

It helps that Hong Kong is blessed with an East-meets-West cultural sensibility. That engenders a singular learning environment, preparing overseas students to meet fast-changing global challenges, especially for those interested in tapping the enormous opportunities available in the

Greater China region.

Thanks to Hong Kong's English-speaking post-secondary institutions and language environment, international students need minimal time and efforts to immerse in Hong Kong's education system.

The cosmopolitan nature of campus and city life cultivates students to acquire an international outlook.

At the same time, our enviable Chinese language and cultural environment creates unsurpassed opportunities for students aspiring to build their careers in Greater China, particularly in the Greater Bay Area.

Quality is another decisive advantage of our post-secondary education. Hong Kong boasts a multitude of world-class institutions, including 22 degree-awarding bodies.

Five of our universities were ranked among the top 100 in the 2023 QS World University Rankings. Which makes us unique not only in the country, but also in Asia.

Our business administration programmes are also among the best in the world, with three of our executive master of business administration offerings ranked among the world's top 25. Among them, the Kellogg-Hong Kong University of Science and Technology EMBA programme was actually rated the world's best in the Financial Times 2022 EMBA Ranking.

We welcome overseas students to study, conduct academic research and participate in exchange activities in Hong Kong. In the 2021-22 academic year, about 20 400 non-local students from over 100 countries and regions took post-secondary programmes here.

That same year, about 2 200 exchange students took part in publicly funded, post-secondary programmes.

We are working, too, to augment our talent pool, so as to help seize the enormous opportunities, there for us, under the national 14th Five-Year Plan and in the Greater Bay Area.

In the furtherance of this, we are increasing the number of publicly funded research postgraduate students by almost 30 per cent in the coming two academic years.

Together with other measures, that will increase the number of research postgraduate students in our universities by up to 50 per cent.

We have also implemented measures to attract outstanding, non-local students to pursue their studies in Hong Kong. That includes a Belt and Road Scholarship, encouraging brilliant students from Belt and Road economies to enrol on undergraduate and research postgraduate programmes in Hong Kong.

Let me add that tuition for non-local research postgraduate students is competitively set at just over HK\$42,000 (or about US\$5,300), a level heavily subsidised by the HKSAR Government.

And our longstanding Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme attracts top research postgraduate students from around the world. Each awardee receives a stipend worth more than US\$43,000 a year for up to three years.

Non-local graduates who wish to stay in Hong Kong and develop their careers can, with minimal requirements, take advantage of our Immigration Arrangement for Non-local Graduates.

Recently, for example, non-local graduates are free to stay in Hong Kong for two full years without the need to first secure a job. That allows them to look for the career opportunity that is right for them.

The point, ladies and gentlemen, is clear and compelling: we very much welcome graduates from all over the world to look to Hong Kong for their future.

We are, of course, hardly alone on this front. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the demand for international education, and global talent, will only continue to grow.

That said, our chances are unique. It helps that we have the full support of our nation and the immense opportunities opened up by the national 14th Five-Year Plan.

The Plan looks to Hong Kong to enhance our traditional strengths in finance, trade and transportation, and as an international legal and dispute-resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific. It also calls on Hong Kong to develop regional or international hub status in four emerging centres, namely: aviation, innovation and technology, intellectual property and as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange.

We are also playing a pivotal role in the Belt and Road initiative, as well as in the Greater Bay Area – the vast and fast-emerging cluster city development integrating nine cities in southern China with Hong Kong and Macau, that has a combined GDP of US\$1.89 trillion in 2022, placing it tie-8th with Italy in the global league of GDP, just behind France and in front of Canada and South Korea.

Alongside these wide-ranging business, trade and investment prospects, and long-term promises, our world-class universities and creative industries will help Hong Kong attract international talent. In doing so, we will contribute to the region's, and the world's, knowledge economy. Of that, I am confident.

My thanks again go to the Forum for World Education for organising its regional conference here in Hong Kong. Please enjoy the Forum's sessions and the wisdom of the prominent speakers in these next two stimulating days, and

I wish you all the best of business, and education, in the coming year.

Lastly, let us all wish for the speedy realisation of this Forum's powerful theme: "The Transformative Power of International Education for a Better World."

Thank you.



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## [Social Welfare Department highly concerned about family tragedy happened in Tuen Mun](#)

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) is highly concerned about a family tragedy happened in a residential estate on Fuk Hang Tsuen Road in Tuen Mun yesterday (May 25). The SWD will approach the family concerned as soon as possible to provide emotional counselling as well as appropriate assistance according to their welfare needs.

The SWD operates a 24-hour hotline 2343 2255 to provide immediate telephone counselling, support and referral services. Members of the public in need may call the hotline for assistance.