

[Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected methamphetamine at airport \(with photo\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (January 24) seized about 760 grams of suspected methamphetamine with an estimated market value of about \$430,000 and arrested an incoming male at Hong Kong International Airport.

The 38-year-old man arrived in Hong Kong from Entebbe, Uganda via Addis Ababa, Ethiopia yesterday. During customs clearance, Customs officers found the batch of suspected methamphetamine concealed inside the underpants he was wearing. The man was then arrested.

The arrested man has been charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug and will appear at West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (January 26).

During the Lunar New Year holidays, Customs believes that the local demand for drugs will increase. The department will therefore further step up enforcement action to fiercely combat different kinds of dangerous drug trafficking activities during the long holidays.

Customs will continue to apply a risk assessment approach and focus on selecting passengers from high-risk regions for clearance to combat transnational drug trafficking activities.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



Toronto ETO and HKTBC host joint Lunar New Year reception (with photos)

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Toronto (Toronto ETO) and the Hong Kong Tourism Board (Canada) (HKTBC) jointly held a Lunar New Year reception in Vancouver today (January 24, Vancouver time) to celebrate the Year of the Rabbit.

In her welcoming remarks at the reception, the Director of Toronto ETO, Ms Emily Mo, updated some 120 guests on the latest developments of Hong Kong. "Over the past couple of months, Hong Kong has been on the path of orderly and progressive reopening. We completely cancelled the hotel quarantine requirement, host major business, sports and cultural events, and began to resume normal travel with the Mainland," Ms Mo said.

On the economic front, Ms Mo pointed out that Hong Kong has been recognised as the world's freest economy, the world's third global financial centre and the fifth most competitive economy. She noted that global forecasts are not optimistic in the short term. However, with Hong Kong's institutional strengths and core competitiveness, and the continuing and wide-ranging support from the Mainland, Hong Kong's strengths as an international financial centre linking the Mainland and the rest of the world are primed to proliferate.

"Under the clear direction of the National 14th Five-Year Plan, we are actively enhancing our strength as an international financial centre. That means boosting our niche as a global offshore Renminbi hub, and an international asset management and risk management centre. This includes a continuing expansion of the mutual access between the financial markets of the Mainland and Hong Kong, to the great benefit of our capital market. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development also enhances our role in fostering economic growth and competitiveness of the economy," Ms Mo continued.

Turning to strategic enterprises and human capital, Ms Mo highlighted that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government has launched new institutional setups and implemented an array of new initiatives to attract enterprises, investment and talent to enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness.

On Hong Kong-Canada relations, Ms Mo was glad that business association and venture capitalist in Canada signed Memoranda of Understanding with their Hong Kong counterparts in the last quarter. This signifies further advancement of collaboration in business, investment and international trade between the two places.

During the reception, the Director for Canada, Central and South

Americas of the HKTb, Mr Michael Lim, revealed the tourism marketing plans for Canada in 2023. "We are very excited that Hong Kong has reopened to visitors. Returning visitors will have new travel experiences and see new attractions, including the iconic M+ Museum, the West Kowloon Cultural District and the upgraded Peak Tram. There are big plans in the pipeline to welcome back travellers. We will soon launch a global promotional campaign, 'Hello Hong Kong', which will showcase Hong Kong's iconic appeals and new experiences. In addition, we're working closely with the travel trade to develop new and exciting travel packages. Visitors can also expect mega-events to return. We already have more than 200 events and happenings for 2023. We look forward to welcoming back Canadian visitors," he said.

A highlight of the reception was a special magic performance by renowned Hong Kong magician Louis Yan. Yan is the first and only Hong Kong magician that has won magic competitions in both America and Europe, including the Merlin Award and the Magic Hall of Fame award. He has also broken two Guinness World Records in these few years.



[Bringing AI into classrooms](#)

The Education Bureau will launch the Module on Artificial Intelligence for Junior Secondary Level in the first half of 2023 for schools to adopt by the 2024-25 academic year.

News.gov.hk spoke to Education Bureau Principal Assistant Secretary (Curriculum Support) Edith Tse to learn more about the module's content. Meanwhile, Christian Alliance SW Chan Memorial College STEAM co-ordinator Tsang Cheung-chun and student So Man-tat shared their experiences in teaching and learning about artificial intelligence.

The story is available at www.news.gov.hk/eng/feature today (January 25) in text and video format.

[Red flag hoisted at Silverstrand Beach](#)

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

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[Red flag hoisted at Clear Water Bay Second Beach](#)

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