

Fifth GBA Legal Professional Examination to be held in October

â€‹The Department of Justice (DoJ) welcomed the notice issued by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) last Friday (June 20) on the details of the 2025 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Legal Professional Examination (GBA Examination). The examination will be held on October 25 in Shenzhen and Zhuhai, Guangdong. Eligible applicants can apply to sit for the examination through the website of the MoJ from June 25 to July 4. For more details, please visit:

www.moj.gov.cn/pub/sfbgw/zwxxgk/fdzdgknr/fdzdgknrtzvj/202506/t20250620_521341.html (in Chinese only).

The GBA Examination has been held four times. Currently, over 560 Hong Kong and Macao legal practitioners have passed the examination and obtained the Lawyer's License (Guangdong-Hongkong-Macao Greater Bay Area) to provide legal services in the nine Mainland municipalities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) on specified civil and commercial matters to which the Mainland laws apply. The period of the pilot scheme for Hong Kong and Macao legal practitioners to practise in the nine Mainland municipalities in the GBA has been extended until October 4, 2026. The practice experience threshold for enrolment in the GBA Examination has also been lowered from five years to three years.

The Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, SC, said, "As the GBA Examination continues to be held and the team of GBA lawyers continues to grow, the pilot scheme fully harnesses the GBA's unique advantage of 'one country, two systems and three jurisdictions', contributing to the construction of rule of law in the GBA. The pilot scheme will expire next year. We will actively strive for the scheme of GBA lawyers to be regularised."

The DoJ will continue to work closely with authorities including the MoJ and the Department of Justice of Guangdong Province in their work to implement the fifth GBA Examination and provide training for GBA lawyers.

Inspection of aquatic products imported from Japan

In response to the Japanese Government's plan to discharge nuclear-contaminated water at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station, the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene issued a Food Safety Order which prohibits all

aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds originating from the 10 metropolis/prefectures, namely Tokyo, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Miyagi, Chiba, Gunma, Tochigi, Niigata, Nagano and Saitama, from being imported into and supplied in Hong Kong.

For other Japanese aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds that are not prohibited from being imported into Hong Kong, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is conducting comprehensive radiological tests to verify that the radiation levels of these products do not exceed the guideline levels before they are allowed to be supplied in the market.

From noon on June 20 to noon today (June 23), the CFS conducted tests on the radiological levels of 325 food samples imported from Japan, which were of the "aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt" category, in the past three days (including last Saturday and Sunday). No sample was found to have exceeded the safety limit. Details can be found on the CFS's thematic website titled "Control Measures on Foods Imported from Japan" (www.cfs.gov.hk/english/programme/programme_rafs/programme_rafs_fc_01_30_Nuclear_Event_and_Food_Safety.html).

In parallel, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has also tested 150 samples of local catch for radiological levels. All the samples passed the tests. Details can be found on the AFCD's website (www.afcd.gov.hk/english/fisheries/Radiological_testing/Radiological_Test.html).

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) has also enhanced the environmental monitoring of the local waters. No anomaly has been detected so far. For details, please refer to the HKO's website (www.hko.gov.hk/en/radiation/monitoring/seawater.html).

From August 24, 2023, to noon today, the CFS and the AFCD have conducted tests on the radiological levels of 145 719 samples of food imported from Japan (including 95 747 samples of aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt) and 33 292 samples of local catch respectively. All the samples passed the tests.

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Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Monday, June 23, 2025 is 103.3 (up 0.2 against last Saturday's index).

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