

DEVB launches District-based Spatial Information Dashboard and Geo-tagging Tool

The Development Bureau (DEVB) today (June 30) launched the District-based Spatial Information Dashboard (the Dashboard) and the Geo-tagging Tool (the Tool). They are two of the four quick-win projects under the Common Spatial Data Infrastructure (CSDI) implemented by the DEVB for promoting the smart city development.

The Dashboard is a web-based application comprising three prototypes of "Temporary Vacant Government Sites", "Elderly Services" and "Childcare Services". It presents on a single screen the district-based analytics that are of interest to the public, using simple interactive data visualisation tools.

The Tool is a convenient web-based tool allowing the public, who do not have advanced technical skills in operating a geographic information system, to geo-enable their own data. It allows both the public and private sectors to realise the benefits of using spatial data upon geo-enablement.

Members of the public can use the Dashboard and the Tool free of charge via the Hong Kong GeoData Store – CSDI Portal (alpha version) (geodata.gov.hk/) or their designated websites as below:

- (1) the Dashboard: csdi-dashboard.geodata.gov.hk/; and
- (2) the Tool: geodata.gov.hk/gt/

The CSDI aims to provide a map-based digital infrastructure to enhance the use, management, discovery and sharing of spatial data for robust policy-making, driving innovation and value creation of society. The other two quick-win projects are Map Application Programming Interface (Map API), which has been launched to the public since December 3, 2020, and Address Data Infrastructure (GeoAddress), which will be made available to facilitate address searching by fourth quarter of 2021.

About 5 500 outstanding students awarded government scholarships

Some 5 500 students have been awarded scholarships and awards under the HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund (GSF) and the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund (SPEF) in the 2020/21 academic year, totalling about \$150

million.

This year, a total of about 460 students with special educational needs were given the Endeavour Merit Award/the Endeavour Scholarship under the two funds. In addition, the GSF has reserved about \$40 million for the Talent Development Scholarship and the Reaching Out Award.

In a short video, the Secretary for Education, Mr Kevin Yeung, congratulated the awardees of the scholarships and awards. He encouraged them to pursue a diversified development and hopes that the scholarships and awards could serve as a token to give them recognition for their outstanding performances.

Mr Yeung mentioned in particular that while the pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges worldwide, it is exceptionally commendable that many students have risen to these challenges with significant achievements in various areas.

The awardees have also been invited to share their joy, experiences, and future study and work plans in a video clip.

Mr Yeung's congratulatory message and the awardees' sharing have been uploaded onto the websites of the Education Bureau (EDB) (www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/postsecondary/local-higher-edu/publicly-funded-programmmes/scholarship.html) and the Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education (www.cspe.edu.hk/en/Overview-Measures-Fund-SPSS-Ceremony.html), respectively.

The GSF was established in 2008 to attract outstanding local students to advance their studies at home, and meritorious non-local students to pursue higher education opportunities in Hong Kong. Scholarships and awards under the GSF are Scholarships for Outstanding Performance, Targeted Scholarship, Talent Development Scholarship, Reaching Out Award, and Endeavour Merit Award. Scholarships and awards are offered to students studying full-time publicly funded sub-degree, undergraduate-level or above programmes.

A list of the 10 participating institutions is in Annex I. In this academic year, about 1 300 local students and 600 non-locals were awarded the scholarships/awards. In terms of levels of study, about 1 100 students were at the undergraduate level or above, while 800 students were at the sub-degree level.

The Belt and Road (B&R) Scholarship was introduced under the Targeted Scholarship Scheme to encourage students from B&R countries and regions to pursue studies in Hong Kong. Eighty-eight students from 24 B&R countries have been awarded with this scholarship for the first time in this academic year.

The Self-financing Post-secondary Scholarship Scheme (SPSS) was established under the SPEF in 2011 to promote the quality and sustainable development of the self-financing post-secondary sector. There are five types of scholarships and awards under the scheme, namely Outstanding Performance

Scholarship, Best Progress Award, Talent Development Scholarship, Reaching Out Award, and Endeavour Scholarship. These scholarships and awards are offered to students pursuing full-time locally accredited self-financing sub-degree or undergraduate programmes. A list of 30 participating institutions is in Annex II. In this academic year, the SPEF offered scholarships and awards to about 3 400 local and about 200 non-local students. In terms of levels of study, about 2 000 of them pursued undergraduate studies while about 1 600 students were at the sub-degree level.

Details of the scholarships and awards under the GSF are available at the EDB's website (www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/postsecondary/local-higher-edu/publicly-funded-programmmes/scholarship.html). Those under the SPSS as well as the SPEF are available at the Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education's website (www.cspe.edu.hk).

19th round of compulsory testing for staff members of RCHEs, RCHDs and nursing homes to commence shortly

The Government today (June 30) announced that the 19th round of compulsory testing for staff members of residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) and nursing homes will commence shortly.

In accordance with section 10(1) of the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J), the Secretary for Food and Health issued a compulsory testing notice yesterday (June 29), requiring persons who are employed by and will be on duty at RCHEs, RCHDs, nursing homes and day service units attached to the premises of residential care homes during the period from July 15 to 24, 2021, or who will provide services to residents or users through hire-of-service contracts with residential care homes and the aforementioned units during that period (including full-time, part-time and relief staff), to undergo polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid tests for COVID-19 during the period from July 5 to 14, 2021, according to the requirements and procedure set out in the notice (the Specified Test). However, persons who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course (i.e. received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days before the end of the testing period) are not required to undergo the Specified Test. Persons who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course in places outside of Hong Kong (i.e. received the recommended dose(s) of a COVID-19 vaccine as stipulated in relevant guidelines at least 14 days before the end of the testing period, and the vaccine used is included on the list of vaccines recognised for specified purposes as published on

www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/list_of_recognised_covid19_vaccines.pdf), are also not required to undergo the Specified Test.

The staff of the aforementioned institutions may choose the following means to undergo the Specified Test:

(1) To undergo the Specified Test in any of the Community Testing Centres (see the list at www.communitytest.gov.hk/en), Temporary Testing Centres (if any) (see the list at www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site_pubsvc/page_supportser/sub_ttc), or mobile specimen collection stations (if any) (see the list at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html) in accordance with the instructions given by the staff at the centre/station;

(2) To undergo the Specified Test as arranged by institution operators at a laboratory listed on the "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (see the list at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/List_of_recognised_laboratories RTPCR.pdf) and as instructed by the staff of the laboratory;

(3) To obtain a specimen bottle from one of the 121 post offices, 47 general out-patient clinics of the Hospital Authority or vending machines set up at 20 MTR stations, collect a deep throat saliva sample in the specimen bottle as per the guidelines provided together with the specimen bottle, and return the specimen bottle with the sample (see the specimen bottles distribution and specimen collection locations and times at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/early-testing.html);

(4) To undergo the Specified Test at general out-patient clinics of the Hospital Authority as instructed by a medical professional of the Hospital Authority; or

(5) To self-arrange testing provided by a laboratory listed on the "COVID-19 Thematic Website" at their own expense (see the list at www.coronavirus.gov.hk/pdf/List_of_recognised_laboratories RTPCR.pdf).

Any person who fails to comply with the testing notice commits an offence and may be subject to a fixed penalty of \$5,000. He or she would also be issued with a compulsory testing order requiring him or her to undergo testing within a specified time frame. Failure to comply with the order is an offence and the offender would be liable to a fine at level 4 (\$25,000) and imprisonment for six months.

A spokesman for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) said that the SWD and the Department of Health would issue letters to institutions to inform them of the relevant arrangements and requirements. The spokesman reminded that staff of the said institutions who would undergo testing at community testing centres should make an advance booking via the community testing centre booking system (www.communitytest.gov.hk) for the free testing service. In addition, institution operators should remind their staff members to properly keep the SMS notifications of their test results or their test result reports.

Institution operators are required to keep records of their staff having received the Specified Test and the results within the time frame specified by the Government. They are also required to keep the list of staff members who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course. Institution operators also have to co-operate with Checking Officers (Compulsory Testing) of the SWD who are enforcing the Regulation at residential care homes.

The Government will continue to monitor the epidemic situation and make adjustments to the aforementioned testing policy after taking the overall anti-epidemic measures into account. Although staff members who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination course are exempted from the regular compulsory testing, they can still receive free testing if they voluntarily choose to undergo the test.

Red flag hoisted at Hung Shing Yeh Beach

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 (June 30) that due to big waves, the red flag has been hoisted at Hung Shing Yeh Beach in Islands District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.

First quarter 2021 issue of the "Quarterly Supplement to Statistical Digest of the Services Sector" published

The first quarter 2021 issue of "Quarterly Supplement to Statistical Digest of the Services Sector" is published by the Census and Statistics Department today (June 30). The publication provides up-to-date quarterly statistics (from the fourth quarter of 2019 to the first quarter of 2021) for the more important statistical series on 14 major service industries/domains of Hong Kong.

The above publication is now available for download at the website of the Census and Statistics Department (www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?scode=520&pcode=B1080008). Enquiries can be directed to the Logistics and Producer Prices Statistics Section of the Department (Tel: 3903 7257 or email: services@censtatd.gov.hk).