

[FS briefs UK business leaders to reaffirm Hong Kong's position as global investment and trade hub \(with photos\)](#)

The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, gave an online Corporate Members Briefing at Asia House today (April 30) to update UK business leaders on Hong Kong's leading position as a global investment and trade hub and its unique roles as a gateway, a springboard and an intermediary under China's dual circulation development strategy.

In his opening remarks, Mr Chan highlighted the restoration of social and political stability due to the enactment of the national security law and the impending improvement to the electoral system of Hong Kong. The improved system, he said, would ensure that patriots administer Hong Kong with the goal of getting on with the substantive business of building a flourishing economy and providing for an engaged community.

He then told the audience that with its institutional strengths and core competitiveness, Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre remains very solid. The city has continued to thrive as a global hub for financing, offshore Renminbi business and asset and risk management, and is fully committed to promoting the development of green and sustainable finance. Despite the pandemic's economic fallout, Hong Kong's economy continued to function well. The strong growth of the Mainland economy, the improved economic situation in neighbouring Asian markets and the gradual control over COVID-19 in major economies should render further support to Hong Kong's economy.

Mr Chan also said that Hong Kong's flourishing future is underpinned by its role as the multilevel business bridge between the Mainland and the rest of the world. The 14th Five-Year Plan of the Central Government duly recognises Hong Kong as a global financial, transport and trade centre and supports the city's development as an international hub for both aviation and innovation and technology. Hong Kong will capitalise on the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development as the best entry point to grasp the opportunities arising from the Mainland's development.

With around 50 participants joining, the online event was organised by Asia House, an independent think tank based in the UK. The question-and-answer session of the briefing provided an effective platform for Mr Chan to exchange views with participants on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government's anti-epidemic work and initiatives to support economic recovery, as well as policies and support for promoting green and sustainable finance.



[Meetings of Legislative Council and its Committees](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

Details of the meetings of the Legislative Council (LegCo) and its Committees to be held in the LegCo Complex during the week from May 3 to 7 are available in the meeting schedule attached.

The information in the meeting schedule is subject to change. Please refer to the LegCo Calendar on the LegCo Website (www.legco.gov.hk) for the latest details of meetings.

Members of the public can watch or listen to the meetings via the Webcast system on the LegCo Website. To observe the proceedings of the meetings at the LegCo Complex, members of the public may call 3919 3399 during office hours to reserve seats.

[Twenty-six persons arrested during anti-illegal worker operations \(with photos\)](#)

The Immigration Department (ImmD) mounted a series of territory-wide anti-illegal worker operations, including joint operations with the Hong Kong Police Force codenamed "Champion" and a joint anti-illegal worker operation

with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, from April 25 to yesterday (April 29). A total of 19 suspected illegal workers and five suspected employers were arrested. Two suspected aiders and abettors were also arrested.

During anti-illegal worker operations, ImmD Task Force officers raided 89 target locations including a commercial building, a garbage collection depot, a massage parlour, an office, a retail shop, residential buildings and restaurants. Thirteen suspected illegal workers, three suspected employers and two suspected aiders and abettors were arrested. The suspected illegal workers comprised four men and nine women, aged 34 to 56. Among them, three women were holders of recognisance forms, which prohibit them from taking any employment. In addition, a woman was suspected of using and being in possession of a forged Hong Kong identity card. Meanwhile, two men and a woman, aged 50 to 63, were suspected of employing the illegal workers. Also, a man and a woman, aged 48 and 58, suspected of aiding and abetting a person who breached his condition of stay in Hong Kong, were also arrested.

In addition, among the "Champion" operations, enforcement officers raided 128 target locations in Kowloon East, Kwai Chung, Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan District including a construction site, logistics centres, wet markets and warehouses. Three suspected illegal workers and two suspected employers were arrested. The suspected illegal workers comprised two men and a woman, aged 20 to 51. Among them, two men were holders of recognisance forms, which prohibit them from taking any employment. In addition, a man was suspected of using and being in possession of a false instrument. Meanwhile, a man and a woman, aged 60 and 46, were suspected of employing the illegal workers.

Furthermore, during a joint anti-illegal worker operation with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, enforcement officers raided two target locations in Sham Shui Po. Three suspected illegal workers were arrested. The suspected illegal workers comprised three women, aged 31 to 42.

"Any person who contravenes a condition of stay in force in respect of him shall be guilty of an offence. Also, visitors are not allowed to take employment in Hong Kong, whether paid or unpaid, without the permission of the Director of Immigration. Offenders are liable to prosecution and upon conviction face a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to two years' imprisonment. Aiders and abettors are also liable to prosecution and penalties," an ImmD spokesman said.

The spokesman warned that, as stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, illegal immigrants or people who are the subject of a removal order or a deportation order are prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining in any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. The Court of Appeal has issued a guideline ruling that a sentence of 15 months' imprisonment should be applied in such cases. Under the prevailing laws, it is an offence to use or possess a forged Hong Kong identity card or a Hong Kong identity card related to another person. Offenders are liable to prosecution and a maximum penalty of

a \$100,000 fine and up to 10 years' imprisonment. In addition, it is an offence to use or possess a false instrument, or make false representation to an Immigration Officer. Offenders are liable to prosecution and a maximum penalty of \$150,000 and up to 14 years' imprisonment.

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for three years and a fine of \$350,000. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence. According to the court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card. The maximum penalty for failing to inspect such a document is imprisonment for one year and a fine of \$150,000.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure, conduct an initial screening of vulnerable persons, including illegal workers, illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers, who are arrested during any operation with a view to ascertaining whether they are trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threats and coercion in the recruitment phase and the nature of exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various forms of support and assistance, including urgent intervention, medical services, counselling, shelter, temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments.



[Update on cluster of Multi-drug Resistant Acinetobacter cases in Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding an earlier announcement on a cluster of patients confirmed to be carriers of Multi-drug Resistant Acinetobacter (MDRA) in medical wards, the spokesperson for Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital (PYNEH) gave the following update today (April 30):

In accordance with the prevailing guidelines, the hospital commenced contact tracing and confirmed three more patients (two males and one female, aged 30 to 85) of the medical wards as carriers of MDRA. All three patients are still hospitalised in PYNEH. They are currently under medical surveillance and isolation treatment with stable condition.

Following the activation of the Emergency Response Level in public hospitals, the visiting arrangement has been suspended. The following infection control measures have been stepped up according to the established guidelines:

1. Enhanced cleaning and disinfection of the wards concerned;
2. Application of stringent contact precautions and enhanced hand hygiene for staff and patients; and

3. Enhanced patient and environmental screening procedures.

The hospital will continue to closely monitor the situation in the wards concerned. The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.

Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at 9am today (April 30), 11 COVID-19 confirmed patients were discharged from hospital in the last 24 hours. Including a patient (case number: 11763) discharged earlier on April 28, a total of 11 416 patients with confirmed or probable infection have been discharged.

At present, there are 637 negative pressure rooms in public hospitals with 1 184 negative pressure beds activated. A total of 115 confirmed patients are currently hospitalised in 16 public hospitals and the North Lantau Hospital Hong Kong Infection Control Centre, among which three patients are in critical condition, two are in serious condition and the remaining 110 patients are in stable condition.

The Hospital Authority will maintain close contact with the Centre for Health Protection to monitor the latest developments and to inform the public and healthcare workers on the latest information in a timely manner.

The case numbers of the discharged, critical and serious patients are as follows:

Discharged	11593, 11609, 11639, 11658, 11676, 11679, 11696, 11716, 11717, 11724, 11733, 11763
Critical	6794, 8078, 9907
Serious	10358, 11654