

Company and director fined \$55,500 for contravening Employment Ordinance

Dodo Motor Limited and its director were prosecuted by the Labour Department (LD) for failing to pay wages and annual leave pay in accordance with the requirements of the Employment Ordinance (EO). The company and the director pleaded guilty earlier at Fanling Magistrates' Courts and were fined \$28,500 and \$27,000 respectively today (February 23), making a total fine of \$55,500.

The company failed to pay three employees' wages and one employee's annual leave pay totaling around \$387,000 within seven days after the expiry of the respective wage period or the termination of employment as required by the EO. The director was convicted for his consent, connivance or neglect in the above wage offences.

"The ruling helps disseminate a strong message to all employers, directors and responsible officers of companies that they have to pay employees' wages and annual leave pay within the statutory time limit stipulated in the EO," a spokesman for the LD said.

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"The LD will not tolerate these offences and will spare no effort in enforcing the law and safeguarding employees' statutory rights," the spokesman added.

City I&T Grand Challenge extends application period to June 30

The Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) announced today (February 23) that the application deadline for the first City I&T Grand Challenge will be extended from April 24 to June 30.

A spokesman for the Commission said, "During the epidemic, face-to-face classes and extra-curricular activities for primary and secondary schools have not been fully resumed. Schools have also been heavily engaged in rearrangements for classes and anti-epidemic work on campus. Extension of the application period will allow more time, both online and offline, for teachers and students to interact with one another and form teams for the competition."

To enable contestants to have a good understanding of the theme of the competition, the relevant innovation and technology (I&T) areas and the concept of design thinking, a host of related videos are provided on the

competition website. Additional enriching training content will also be uploaded continuously. In the Inspiration Masterclasses L-I-V-E series, more than 10 seminars and workshops under the four topics, namely "Living", "Innovation and Technology", "Vision" and "Entrepreneurship", will be conducted. Members of the public and students are welcome to participate online. Furthermore, the "Train the Trainer" series and small-group visits tailor-made for teachers of primary and secondary schools will be rolled out in March to equip them to guide their students in transforming innovative ideas into I&T proposals.

Organised by the ITC together with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, the first City I&T Grand Challenge was launched on December 18, 2020. In light of the new normal during the epidemic, the theme of the competition is "Innovating for Hong Kong's New Normal". All sectors of the community are invited to put forward I&T solutions focusing on two topics, namely "Environmental Sustainability" and "Social Connectivity", to tackle problems faced by the city and people in their daily lives. A series of workshops and other activities are also held to promote an I&T atmosphere in the whole community. The competition is divided into the Primary School Group, the Secondary School Group, the University/Tertiary Education Group and the Open Group. Winners will be awarded a cash prize and a trophy. Winners of the University/Tertiary Education and Open Groups will also have a chance to receive research and development resources, and training for refining their I&T solutions for trials at a designated venue such as a government department or a public organisation. Details are available at the event website (citytechgc.hk).

Exchange Fund Bills tender results

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

Exchange Fund Bills tender results:

Tender date	: February 23, 2021
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q2108
Issue date	: February 24, 2021
Maturity date	: May 26, 2021
Amount applied	: HK\$161,588 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$46,321 MN
Average yield accepted	: 0.05 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 0.06 PCT
Pro rata ratio*	: About 5 PCT
Average tender yield	: 0.06 PCT

Tender date	: February 23, 2021
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H2137
Issue date	: February 24, 2021
Maturity date	: August 25, 2021
Amount applied	: HK\$44,190 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$13,000 MN
Average yield accepted	: 0.05 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 0.06 PCT
Pro rata ratio*	: About 49 PCT
Average tender yield	: 0.07 PCT

*"Pro rata ratio" refers to the average percentage of allotment with respect to each tender participant's tendered amount at the "highest yield accepted" level.

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tenders to be held in the week beginning – March 1, 2021:

Tender date	: March 2, 2021
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q2109
Issue date	: March 3, 2021
Maturity date	: June 2, 2021
Tenor	: 91 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$51,332 MN

Tender date	: March 2, 2021
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H2138
Issue date	: March 3, 2021
Maturity date	: September 1, 2021
Tenor	: 182 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$12,000 MN

[Cross-generation performances to revisit Cantonese opera “The Cosmic](#)

Mirror"

"Revisiting a Fine Selection of Cantonese Opera 'The Cosmic Mirror' (Five Generations on Stage)" will be performed in March and April. The cross-generation performances, to be presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, will feature Cantonese opera virtuosi, young artists and students of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

The performers will include Yau Sing-po, Lee Lung (March 10 and April 24 only), Wan Fai-yin, Leung Siu-ming (March 11 and April 23 only), Yue Ling-lung, Lui Hung-kwong, Wan Yuk-yu, Zong Yunsin, Pui Chun-hin, Hong Hai, Lam Tin-yau, Hong Wah, Yam Dan-fung, Tsz Ling-chau, Chan Chak-lui, Chin Shan, Yat Dim-hung (March 10 and 11 only), Kim Lun, Mo Huamin, Vong Seng-pen, Ng Lap-hei (April 23 and 24 only), Liang Xiaofei, Lin Xinling, Leung Sum-yee, Leung Fei-tung, Jackie Leung, Xie Xiaoyu (April 23 and 24 only), Ng Kwok-wa, Kwong Tsz-wong, Chu Siu-yat, Ng Sin-hang and Kwong Shing-kwan.

Premiered in 2005 by Elmond's Workshop, "The Cosmic Mirror" features a mythical theme about human goodness and has had two reruns thanks to popular demand among Cantonese opera fans. In this restaged production, additional celestials are included among the dramatis personae, such as the Eight Immortals; the Sun God; the Moon Goddess; the Literary and Martial Gods; the God of Fortune; the Goddess of Mercy; the Golden Boy; the Jade Girl; the four sagacious hermits of the Fisherman, the Woodcutter, the Farmer and the Scholar; the creatures in the underwater Dragon Palace; the four Demons; and the Gods of Wind, Thunder, Rain and Lightning, thus creating a visually magnificent tableau of Buddhist and Taoist deities.

The Cosmic Mirror is a treasure with deep allegorical significance. The Celestial King of Beiming (the Northernmost Seas), who has achieved a thousand years of magic cultivation, has the material gratification of the mortal world at his fingertips. When he questions the beneficent Buddhist spirit of universal salvation, the Goddess of Mercy decrees that he would be demoted to the mortal world. The Celestial King of Beiming undergoes extreme poverty and suffering before he can finally succeed as an immortal. On the day he, as a mortal called Du Shuancheng, is named Top Scholar in the civil service examination, news arrives that the region north of the Yangtze River is flooded. The emperor orders him to find the Cosmic Mirror for disaster relief. In his search for the magical mirror, his dear ones and good friends all lay down their lives for his cause.

With the many trials and tribulations, one may wonder if all the joys and sorrows of human experience finally sublimate into the noble spirit of altruism. This is the theme that this play aims to explore.

Performance details are as follows:

March 10 and 11 (Wednesday and Thursday), 7.30pm
Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

April 23 and 24 (Friday and Saturday), 7.30pm
Auditorium, Tuen Mun Town Hall

Tickets priced from \$140 to \$350 are now available at URB TIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7325 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/chinese_opera/programs_1045.html.

There will be two talks with free admission upon telephone registration, which will be available from 10am tomorrow (February 24) on a first-come, first-served basis. Those interested may call 2268 7267 (10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5.30pm from Monday to Friday, except public holidays). Each person can reserve one seat for each talk. Names and contact numbers are required for registration.

Details of the talks are as follows:

Pre-performance Talk (in Cantonese)

March 1 (Monday), 7.30pm

AC1, Level 4, Administration Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Speakers: Liu Xun, Yeung Chi-sum, Lee Lung and Wan Fai-yin

Post-performance Talk (in Cantonese)

April 28 (Wednesday), 7.30pm

AC2, Level 4, Administration Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Speakers: Liu Xun, Yeung Chi-sum, Leung Siu-ming, Yue Ling-lung and Share Ka-lok

WT0 to establish "panel" to consider dispute raised by Hong Kong in respect of US' new requirement on origin marking

The World Trade Organization (WT0) Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) agreed at its meeting on February 22 (Geneva time) to Hong Kong's request to establish a "panel" to consider the dispute raised by Hong Kong with respect to the violation of WT0 rules by the United States' (US') new requirement on origin marking for Hong Kong products.

The Permanent Representative of the Hong Kong Special Administrative

Region (HKSAR) of China to the WTO, Mr Laurie Lo, spoke at the DSB meeting. He reiterated Hong Kong's strong objection against the US' unilateral and irresponsible imposition of the new requirement on origin marking for Hong Kong products, and pointed out that the new requirement is not only unjustifiable, but is also inconsistent with a number of WTO rules, and it damages Hong Kong's interests as a WTO member. It is therefore necessary to set up a panel to follow up on the matter.

A spokesman for the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau said that so far 13 WTO members have indicated an interest to join meetings of the "panel" as third parties, and this shows their concern with the issue which involves the multilateral trading system and the equal rights of WTO members.

The HKSAR Government made the first request to the DSB at its meeting on January 25 to establish a panel to consider the dispute in accordance with the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism. According to the mechanism, after the complaining party has made a request, a panel shall be established at the latest at the DSB meeting following the meeting at which the request first appears as an item on the DSB's agenda.

The spokesman reiterated that pursuant to Articles 116, 151 and 152 of the Basic Law, the HKSAR is a separate customs territory and may, using the name "Hong Kong, China", participate in international organisations such as the WTO and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation as a separate member, and develop mutually beneficial economic and trade relations with economies around the world. The special status of Hong Kong has been widely recognised and respected by the international community, and Hong Kong's economic and trade status is on par with that of other WTO members. The "Made in Hong Kong" marking on Hong Kong products has been accepted internationally for many years. The marking not only conforms to Hong Kong's status as a separate customs territory and complies with WTO rules, but also provides consumers with clear and accurate information on product origin.