

Two third-generation artificial turf pitches reopen with trial use of new infill materials

A spokesman for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) announced today (February 19) that the turf resurfacing works for the artificial turf pitches at Tsing Yi Northeast Park and Kwong Fuk Park in Tai Po have been completed. The pitches will reopen today. New infill materials are being used on a trial basis to provide better artificial turf pitches for public use.

The LCSD has been closely monitoring the latest developments of artificial turf system and relevant local and international good practices. New infill materials are being introduced at selected venues on a trial basis to enhance the third-generation artificial turf pitches under the management of the LCSD. An organic material (cork) and ethylene propylene diene monomer (EPDM), which comply with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)'s safety requirements, are being trialled as infill materials for the artificial turf pitches at Tsing Yi Northeast Park and Kwong Fuk Park in Tai Po respectively. The two artificial turf pitches will reopen today for use by the public and are available for block booking.

The LCSD will review the durability, overall performance and cost-effectiveness of the new infill materials as reference for new facilities or refurbishment in the future.

In response to the public concerns about health and safety-related issues in regard to the artificial turf pitches, the LCSD formed the Committee on Artificial Turf Pitches in March 2017. The Committee comprises representatives of relevant government departments and national sports associations as well as experts to review the current standards, requirements and practices for the design, construction, installation, operation and maintenance of the third-generation artificial turf pitches in venues managed by the LCSD. The Committee completed its review report earlier and confirmed that the artificial turf system (including infill materials) fully complied with the safety requirements of FIFA, and is widely used across the globe. The LCSD has accepted the measures recommended by the Committee for providing quality and safe artificial turf pitches for public use. The relevant executive summary has been uploaded to the LCSD website (www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/aboutlcsd/ppr/investigation/Executive_Summary_Artificial_Turf_Pitches_en.pdf) for public inspection.

Latest arrangements for LegCo Secretariat public services

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

In view of the latest situation of COVID-19 epidemic, the Legislative Council (LegCo) Secretariat will resume the provision of support services for physical meetings on all days starting from next Monday (February 22). A maximum of 10 members of the public will be admitted to observe meetings of the Council and its committees in order to reduce the number of observers at the Public Galleries of the Chamber/conference rooms. Counter services of the Public Complaints Office will be resumed. Members of the public may visit the Library and Archives by appointments. All Secretariat staff will resume normal work while flexible working hours and lunch hours will be implemented in order to maintain social distancing.

The Secretariat continues to strongly advise all persons entering the LegCo Complex to scan the "LeaveHomeSafe" QR code displayed in the Complex and will, starting from March 1, require them to scan the QR code or register relevant information before entry for necessary contact tracing if a confirmed case is found.

Meanwhile, the Secretariat will continue to implement epidemic prevention measures and special arrangements. For details, please refer to the announcement on the LegCo Website (www.legco.gov.hk/general/english/sec/corg_ser/whats_on_20210222-e.pdf).

The Secretariat will closely monitor the development of the epidemic and review the measures to make further announcements in due course.

Result of the tenders of the People's Bank of China RMB Bills held on February 19, 2021

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

Result of the tenders of the People's Bank of China RMB Bills held on February 19, 2021:

Tender Result

Tender Date : February 19, 2021
Bills available for Tender : Three-month RMB Bills
Issuer : The People's Bank of China
Issue Number : BCHKFP21002
Issue Date : February 23, 2021
Maturity Date : May 25, 2021 (or the closest coupon payment date)
Application Amount : RMB 27,665 million
Issue Amount : RMB 10,000 million
Average accepted Coupon Rate : 2.53%
Highest accepted Coupon Rate (Bills' Coupon) : 2.70%
Lowest accepted Coupon Rate : 2.05%
Allocation Ratio : Approximately 68.89%

Tender Result

Tender Date : February 19, 2021
Bills available for Tender : One-year RMB Bills
Issuer : The People's Bank of China
Issue Number : BCHKFP21003
Issue Date : February 23, 2021
Maturity Date : February 23, 2022 (or the closest coupon payment date)
Application Amount : RMB 48,245 million
Issue Amount : RMB 15,000 million
Average accepted Coupon Rate : 2.57%
Highest accepted Coupon Rate (Bills' Coupon) : 2.74%
Lowest accepted Coupon Rate : 2.10%
Allocation Ratio : Approximately 40.00%

Tender period extended for Lok Ma Chau Loop Main Works Package 1 – Site Formation and Infrastructure Works

The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) today (February 19) announced that the tender period for the contract for Development of Lok Ma Chau Loop Main Works Package 1 Contract 1 – Site Formation and Infrastructure Works inside Lok Ma Chau Loop and Western Connection Road Phase 1 (Contract No. YL/2020/01) has been extended to noon on March 12.

The CEDD invited tenders for the contract on December 24, 2020. The tender period was originally scheduled to expire at noon on February 26, 2021.

The extension of the tender period was gazetted today. Details of the tender notice are available at the CEDD's website (www.cedd.gov.hk/eng/tender-notice/contracts/tender-notice/index.html).

The CEDD has commissioned AECOM Asia Company Limited to design and supervise the works. For enquiries, please call the company at 3922 9000 during office hours.

Tender period extended for Site Formation and Infrastructure Works for Public Housing Developments at Kam Tin South, Yuen Long – Phase 1

The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) today (February 19) announced that the tender period for the contract for Site Formation and Infrastructure Works for Public Housing Developments at Kam Tin South, Yuen Long – Phase 1 (Contract No. YL/2020/04) has been extended to noon on March 19.

The CEDD invited tenders for the contract on December 24, 2020. The tender period was originally scheduled to expire at noon on February 26, 2021.

The extension of the tender period was gazetted today. Details of the tender notice are available at the CEDD's website (www.cedd.gov.hk/eng/tender-notices/contracts/tender-notices/index.html).

The CEDD has commissioned AECOM Asia Company Limited to design and supervise the works. For enquiries, please call the company at 3922 9000 during office hours.