

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 is 100.3 (down 0.2 against yesterday's index).

Fourteen building plans approved in December

The Buildings Department approved 14 building plans in December, with one on Hong Kong Island, seven in Kowloon and six in the New Territories.

Of the approved plans, four were for apartment and apartment/commercial developments, four were for commercial developments, two were for factory and industrial developments, and four were for community services developments.

In the same month, consent was given for works to start on 12 building projects which, when completed, will provide 90 725 square metres of gross floor area for domestic use involving 2 209 units, and 69 418 sq m of gross floor area for non-domestic use. The department has received notification of commencement of superstructure works for two building projects.

The department also issued 24 occupation permits, with six on Hong Kong Island, nine in Kowloon and nine in the New Territories.

Of the buildings certified for occupation, the gross floor area for domestic use was 144 016 sq m involving 2 811 units, and 99 320 sq m was for non-domestic use.

The declared cost of new buildings completed in December totalled about \$14.3 billion.

In addition, nine demolition consents involving nine building structures were issued.

The department received 2 138 reports about unauthorised building works (UBWs) in December and issued 690 removal orders on UBWs.

The full version of the Monthly Digest for December can be viewed on the Buildings Department's homepage (www.bd.gov.hk).

EMSD announces test results of LPG quality in January 2021

â€‹The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) today (February 10) announced that the department collected 10 liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) samples from auto-LPG filling stations and LPG terminals on a random basis in January 2021 for laboratory tests. The results show that the LPG quality of all these samples complied with auto-LPG specifications.

The detailed test results are available on the EMSD's website (www.emsd.gov.hk/en/rl/lpg_sample_analysis_simple). Enquiries can also be made to the EMSD's hotline on 2333 3762.

In addition, the EMSD has been vetting independent third-party test reports submitted by LPG supply companies for each shipment to ensure that the quality of imported LPG complies with the specified requirements.

Kwong Wah Hospital announces passing away of COVID-19 patient

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Kwong Wah Hospital (KWH) today (February 10) announced that a patient confirmed with COVID-19 passed away today.

An 88-year-old female patient (case number: 10238) with chronic diseases was sent to the Accident and Emergency Department of KWH on January 25 due to shortness of breath. She subsequently tested positive for COVID-19 and was transferred to the isolation ward for treatment. Her condition continued to deteriorate and she eventually succumbed at 8.05am today.

The hospital is saddened about the passing away of the patient and would offer the necessary assistance to her family.

Including the above patient, 183 COVID-19 confirmed patients have passed away in public hospitals so far.

Admission arrangements and applications for students' study room admission cards during examination season

The opening hours of the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) students' study rooms (SSR) will be extended during the examination period from March 1 to May 31, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (February 10).

In view of the latest situation of COVID-19, the number of seats in SSR will be adjusted to control the number of users. People who intend to use the SSR service during this examination period can apply for admission cards by post from today.

Application forms and details of the regulations are available at the "Library Notices" section on the HKPL's website (www.hkpl.gov.hk/eindex.html). The deadline for application is February 27, with the postmark date on the envelope taken as the application date. The result will be posted on the notice board of the respective public libraries from March 8 to 14.

Application forms and details of the regulations will be available at the public libraries provided with SSR upon their reopening. Applicants can submit the completed application forms in person to the reopened library where the selected SSR is located on or before the application deadline. Applicants should take note of the latest arrangements of the library services and opening hours announced by the HKPL.

Applicants should be registered borrowers of the HKPL. Priority will be given to candidates sitting for major public exams and professional exams. Applicants can only submit one application and opt for one of the following sessions as detailed below:

March 15 to May 20 (admission card is required)

Sessions:

Morning session: 8am to 12.30pm

Afternoon session: 12.45pm to 5.15pm

Evening session: 5.30pm to 10pm (Mondays to Fridays)

5.30pm to 9.30pm (Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays)

March 1 to 14 and May 21 to 31 (seats are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis for each session and no admission card is required)

Sessions:

Morning session: 8am to 12.30pm

Afternoon session: 12.45pm to 5.15pm

Evening session: 5.30pm to 10pm (Mondays to Fridays)

5.30pm to 9.30pm (Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays)

The arrangement will apply to the SSR service at Shek Tong Tsui, Chai Wan, Quarry Bay, Aberdeen, Pok Fu Lam, Lockhart Road, Kowloon, To Kwa Wan, Ngau Tau Kok, Shui Wo Street, Lam Tin, Po On Road, Lai Chi Kok, Ngau Chi Wan, San Po Kong, Yau Ma Tei, Fa Yuen Street, Sha Tin, Ma On Shan, Yuen Chau Kok, Tsuen Wan, Tuen Mun, North Kwai Chung, South Kwai Chung, Tsing Yi, Yuen Long, Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai, Fanling, Sheung Shui, Tai Po, Sai Kung, Tiu Keng Leng, Tseung Kwan O, Cheung Chau and Tung Chung Public Libraries.

The HKPL may change and alter the opening hours or admission arrangement of SSR in response to public health concerns or other special circumstances when necessary. Please note the latest announcements of the HKPL.

For enquiries, please contact individual libraries or call Customer Hotline at 2921 0208 for the SSR service.