

Opening hours of URBTIX outlets at Tai Kwun and Hong Kong Arts Centre during Lunar New Year

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will implement special opening hours at the URBTIX outlets at Tai Kwun and the Hong Kong Arts Centre during the Lunar New Year holidays, an LCSD spokesman announced today (February 9). Details are as follows:

Tai Kwun

Dates	Opening hours
February 11, 14 and 15 (Lunar New Year's Eve and the third and fourth days of the Lunar New Year)	Open as usual
February 12 and 13 (the first and second days of the Lunar New Year)	Closed

Hong Kong Arts Centre

Dates	Opening hours
February 11 (Lunar New Year's Eve)	To close at 3pm
February 12 to 15 (the first to fourth days of the Lunar New Year)	Closed

From February 11 to 15 (Lunar New Year's Eve to the fourth day of the Lunar New Year), the URBTIX Internet booking website (www.urbtix.hk) and the mobile ticketing app "My URBTIX" (Android and iPhone versions) will maintain normal services, and both the credit card telephone booking hotline 2111 5999 and the ticketing enquiries hotline 3761 6661 will maintain normal services from 10am to 8pm daily.

FEHD urges public to comply with anti-epidemic regulations and not patronise

unlicensed cooked food hawkers during Lunar New Year

In view of the epidemic situation of COVID-19, a spokesman for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) today (February 9) reminded members of the public to continue to comply with various anti-epidemic measures during the Lunar New Year (LNY) holidays, and urged them to keep the environment clean and not to litter.

A spokesman for the FEHD said, "The Government's efforts alone will not suffice to keep the environment clean and tidy. Members of the public and shop operators also have the responsibility to dispose of waste properly in public places.

"During the LNY, the FEHD will enhance street cleaning services, such as increasing the frequency of street sweeping and refuse collection, as necessary. In addition, more staff will be deployed to patrol and take enforcement action, including issuing Fixed Penalty Notices of \$1,500, against persons found littering."

The spokesman also reminded members of the public to pay attention to food safety, not to gather and patronise unlicensed cooked food hawkers, and to keep passageways clear. The FEHD will, depending on actual circumstances, take stringent enforcement actions against illegal cooked food hawkers, shop front extension and hawking activities causing street obstruction.

In addition, the spokesman reminded catering business and scheduled premises operators to continue to strictly comply with the requirements and directions under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), and customers patronising catering premises to comply with the various anti-epidemic regulations and restrictions, including the requirements on group gatherings and wearing of masks. The FEHD will continue to step up law enforcement and publicity efforts during the LNY holidays, and will deploy additional manpower to conduct joint operations with the Police. Stringent enforcement actions relating to anti-epidemic regulations will be taken across the territory to ensure compliance of relevant regulations.

The spokesman appealed to members of the public to exercise civic-mindedness and self-discipline, keep the environment clean and co-operate to fight the virus together during the LNY holidays.

Tenders invited for licence to use and operate fuel supply system for vessels

The Government Property Agency is inviting tenders for a one-year licence to use and operate the Fuel Supply System for vessels at portions of the China Ferry Terminal, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.

The property should be used for the purpose of supply of industrial gas oil for vessels only.

The tender notice was uploaded today (February 9) to the Agency's website: www.gpa.gov.hk. Tender documents are available for collection at the Government Property Agency, 9/F, South Tower, West Kowloon Government Offices, 11 Hoi Ting Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon, during the period from 9am to 6pm from Monday to Friday, except public holidays. The documents can also be downloaded from the Agency's website.

Interested tenderers who wish to attend a site inspection should make a prior appointment with the Government Property Agency by calling 3842 6777 on or before February 19 this year.

Tenderers must submit their tenders by placing them in the Government Logistics Department Tender Box situated on the Ground Floor, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong, before noon on March 2 this year. Late tenders will not be accepted.

Transcript of remarks by CE at media session before ExCo meeting

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam at a media session before the Executive Council meeting today (February 9):

Reporter: It emerged yesterday that the Hong Kong authorities have decided against using a jury for the trial of the first defendant charged under NSL (National Security Law), citing the need to protect the personal safety of jurors and their family members. Wouldn't this give public an impression that the Hong Kong Government does not trust the jury system, which would further erode public trust in the city's rule of law? And shouldn't the Government focus on stepping up measures to protect the jury's safety instead of getting rid of it? And the second question is about the British Consulate said yesterday that it was informed that Hong Kong will no longer allow dual

nationality and they may not be able to provide consular assistance to British Chinese nationals in Hong Kong even if they enter the city with a British passport. Did the Hong Kong Government recently remind all consulates about this? And is it true that the Government would from now on strictly enforce this to ban consulates from offering assistance to people with dual nationality, and why didn't the Government offer a formal announcement on this? And the last question is does the Government still consider locking down certain districts as an effective measure to combat the pandemic given most of the lockdowns found no positive cases? Would the Government consider ditching this strategy so Hongkongers do not have to worry about this during the Chinese New Year holiday? Thank you.

Chief Executive: Three questions. The first question is, I would not comment. I would not comment on individual cases which are now under the judicial process. Similarly, I would not comment on a national security case, except to reiterate that this is a piece of national legislation and Hong Kong is the primary authority for implementing this piece of national legislation. That is, investigations will be done by the Police, prosecutions will be laid by the Department of Justice's independent prosecutors and finally the case will be tried in Hong Kong's independent courts. That is already a very strong indication of trust – trust in "One Country, Two Systems", trust in the Hong Kong systems, whether it is executive or judicial.

The second question is about the British National (Overseas) (BNO) passports. I must reiterate that what the British Government has done is in violation of the understanding reached at the time of the Joint Declaration. There was an exchange of memorandum between the two governments about how the holders of the BNO passports will be treated after 1997. That is, the BNO passport is a travel document and is a proof of identity and nothing else. It is not a form of nationality, and the UK government has pledged that it will not grant right of abode or nationality status to holders of BNO, and this understanding has now been breached. As far as visits by the consulates to their nationals in Hong Kong institutions, there are two authoritative documents that one has to refer to. One is the Vienna Convention, which governs this sort of dual nationality. Where a person has dual nationality – which is accepted and recognised in some places, not all places, certainly not recognised in the Chinese Nationality Law – if that particular person is in one of the places or countries which he possesses one of his national status, then he will not be eligible for this sort of consular protection, including consular visits. That is a general rule applied to all countries and places.

Secondly is the 1996 explanations by the National People's Congress Standing Committee about the application of the Chinese Nationality Law in the Hong Kong SAR after 1997. That has a very specific provision that where people have a foreign nationality or right of abode elsewhere, unless they have renounced and have been approved to renounce that foreign nationality, they are regarded as Chinese nationals in Hong Kong. Likewise, they will not be eligible for consular protection, including consular visits. That is very clear. We are strictly enforcing or implementing that particular policy.

As far as the use of the RTD, the restriction-testing declaration, as a measure to combat COVID-19, we have done 25 such operations. It's a very staff-intensive operation. It's also done as expeditiously as possible in order to reduce the disruption on the residents concerned. It has proven to be effective, I've already mentioned that on previous occasions, but having regard to the importance Hong Kong people attach to Chinese New Year, I think earlier on the Chief Secretary for Administration has mentioned that we will conduct this sort of operations up till 2020 (February 10), which will be tomorrow. Whether we will do it or not is still a matter of whether we need to, because every day the public health colleagues have to work with the home affairs colleagues to see whether there is a candidate for the restriction-testing declaration operation. As things now stand, barring unforeseeable circumstances, we will not do any RTD operation during the Chinese New Year holiday.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

Speech by S for IT at HKSTP – AstraZeneca Co-Incubation Programme Collaboration Agreement Signing Ceremony (English only) (with photo)

Following is the speech by the Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Mr Alfred Sit, at the HKSTP – AstraZeneca Co-Incubation Programme Collaboration Agreement Signing Ceremony today (February 9):

Sunny (Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC), Dr Sunny Chai), Albert (Chief Executive Officer of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, Mr Albert Wong), Michael (General Manager of AstraZeneca China, Dr Michael Lai), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning! It is with great honour that I am here to witness this agreement signing ceremony today.

This co-incubation collaboration is a great leap in the biotech field of the local ecosystem. By creating, as I would describe, a unique "one-stop solution integration platform" for the whole course of action in combating cancer from diagnosis, to monitoring and treatment, the collaboration is a breakthrough in research on oncology, which is currently conducted in a segmental manner predominantly by looking into discrete actions against cancer. This will make research on oncology more consolidated, standing a higher chance of actualising new and better options to fight against the

life-threatening disease.

The hands-on experience and extensive networks of AstraZeneca coming together with the state-of-the-art incubation support of HKSTPC will complement the strengths of each other in facilitating the development of biotech start-ups. Hopefully, these start-ups will excel in technical and business knowledge under AstraZeneca's mentorship and in solution development with HKSTPC's incubation support.

We firmly believe in nurturing a vibrant I&T ecosystem for start-ups and talents to thrive. In this regard, we have committed over \$100 billion to support the I&T development in Hong Kong along eight major areas. One area showcasing the software aspect of the Government support is to enhance the local research capabilities and build the city into a hub for global research collaborations. Two InnoHK research clusters, one on healthcare technologies and the other on artificial intelligence and robotics technologies, are being set up at the Science Park for pulling together world-class institutes and scientists.

As regards the hardware aspect of the Government support, we are working on a number of infrastructural developments to meet the growing demands for technological research facilities, including Phase II of the Science Park Expansion Programme and the Shenzhen/Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Co-operation Zone. These initiatives will also open up more and more opportunities for fruitful ventures into the Greater Bay Area given their geographical advantage.

As the world's second largest biotech fundraising hub, Hong Kong provides lots of resources and opportunities for biotech businesses to prosper. On a happy note, I wish all start-ups every success in their entrepreneurial journeys and everyone a rewarding day! As the Chinese New Year is around the corner, may I wish you all a happy and healthy Year of the Ox. Thank you very much.

