

# **Fraudulent website related to Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited**

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited on fraudulent website, which has been reported to the HKMA. Hyperlink to the press release is available on [the HKMA website](#) for ease of reference by members of the public.

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information to the website concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the website should contact the bank concerned using the contact information provided in the press release, and report to the Police or contact the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

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# **HKSAR Government requests WTO to establish panel to consider dispute with respect to US' new requirement on origin marking**

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government today (January 14) requested the World Trade Organization (WTO) Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) to establish at its meeting on January 25 a panel in accordance with the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism to consider the dispute with respect to the violation of WTO rules by the United States' (US') new requirement on origin marking for Hong Kong products.

The Permanent Representative of the HKSAR to the WTO today filed the relevant document to the WTO Secretariat. The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, also wrote to the United States Trade Representative to inform the US that the HKSAR has taken further action against the US under the WTO mechanism.

Mr Yau said, "The US' unilateral and irresponsible attempt to weaken Hong Kong's status as a separate customs territory, which is conferred by the Basic Law, is highly inappropriate. Such a move also confuses the market and undermines the rules-based multilateral trading system. Hong Kong's special status is a basic principle under 'one country, two systems', and the HKSAR Government will do its utmost to safeguard it. The HKSAR Government requested

on October 30, 2020, consultations with the US under the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism. However, the US' response is disappointing. It is necessary for us to take further action against the US in accordance with the mechanism to defend Hong Kong's interests."

According to the WTO Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes, if the two parties fail to resolve the dispute within 60 days from the launching of consultations, the complaining party may request the DSB to establish a panel to consider the dispute and provide rulings. The 60-day consultation period ended on January 4. However, the US has not made any substantive response to the request of the HKSAR Government, and the new requirement took effect on November 10, 2020. Hong Kong decided to request the DSB to establish a panel to consider the dispute.

According to the WTO Dispute Settlement 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. In other words, if a panel is not established at the DSB meeting on January 25 at the request of the HKSAR Government, the DSB should establish a panel at its next meeting (tentatively scheduled on February 22) at the latest.

Mr Yau reiterated that under "one country, two systems", Hong Kong is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China, and the special status of the HKSAR is conferred by the motherland through the Basic Law. 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 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. This 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.

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## **Analytical accounts of Exchange Fund**

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) released today (January 14) the key analytical accounts of the Exchange Fund at the end of December 2020.

Foreign assets, representing the external assets of the Exchange Fund,

increased during the month by HK\$46.9 billion to HK\$4,007.6 billion.

The Monetary Base, comprising Certificates of Indebtedness, Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation, the balance of the banking system and Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued, amounted to HK\$2,098.0 billion.

Claims on the private sector in Hong Kong amounted to HK\$217.7 billion.

The analytical accounts of the Exchange Fund are released in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and are referred to as the Analytical Accounts of the Central Bank under SDDS (Annex).

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At present, four press releases relating to the Exchange Fund's data are issued by the HKMA each month. Three of these releases are issued to disseminate monetary data in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). The fourth press release, on the Exchange Fund's Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account, is made in accordance with the HKMA's policy of maintaining a high level of transparency. For the month of January 2021, the scheduled dates for issuing the press releases are as follows:

January 7 (Issued)	SDDS International Reserves (Hong Kong's Latest Foreign Currency Reserve Assets Figures)
January 14	SDDS Analytical Accounts of the Central Bank (Analytical Accounts of the Exchange Fund)
January 29	SDDS Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity
January 29	Exchange Fund Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account

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## Import of poultry meat and products from areas in Japan and France suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (January 14) that in view of a notification from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5 avian influenza in Kagoshima Prefecture in Japan, and a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) about an outbreak of low pathogenic H5N3 avian influenza in Canton of Armagnac-Ténerèze, France, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the above-mentioned areas with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that according to the Census and Statistics Department, in the first nine months of last year, Hong Kong imported about 50 tonnes of chilled poultry meat, about 4 300 tonnes of frozen poultry meat and about 200 million poultry eggs from Japan, and about 8 740 tonnes of chilled and frozen poultry meat and about 1.1 million poultry eggs from France.

"The CFS has contacted the Japanese and French authorities over the issues and will closely monitor information issued by the OIE and the relevant authorities on the avian influenza outbreaks. Appropriate action will be taken in response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.

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## Temporary traffic and transport arrangements at Lung Cheung Road westbound this Sunday

The Transport Department (TD) today (January 14) reminded the public that the following temporary traffic and transport arrangements will be implemented from about 1.30am to 5.30am this Sunday (January 17) to facilitate road works:

### (A) Road closure

The section of Lung Cheung Road westbound between Chuk Yuen Road and Nam Cheong Street will be temporarily closed to all vehicular traffic.

## (B) Traffic diversions

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- Vehicles on Lung Cheung Road westbound will be diverted via Chuk Yuen Road, Junction Road, Waterloo Road and Cornwall Street;
- Vehicles on Lion Rock Tunnel Road southbound to Lung Cheung Road westbound will be diverted via Waterloo Road and Cornwall Street;
- Vehicles on Lung Cheung Road westbound to Lion Rock Tunnel Road northbound will be diverted via Chuk Yuen Road, Junction Road and Waterloo Road;
- Vehicles on Chuk Yuen Road northbound to Lung Cheung Road westbound will be diverted via Ma Chai Hang Road, Fung Mo Street, Fu Mei Street, Junction Road and Cornwall Street; and
- Vehicles on Chuk Yuen Road northbound to Lion Rock Tunnel Road northbound will be diverted via Ma Chai Hang Road, Fung Mo Street, Fu Mei Street, Junction Road and Waterloo Road.

## (C) Bus diversions

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During the road closure period, the Lantau Island bound departures of three Citybus overnight routes, namely Nos. N26 (Yau Tong – Tung Chung Station), N29 (Tseung Kwan O (Hong Sing Garden) – Tung Chung Station) and NA29 (Tseung Kwan O (Po Lam) – Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port), will be diverted. Some of the bus stops will also be suspended or relocated. Please refer to the TD's website ([www.td.gov.hk/en/traffic\\_notices/index\\_id\\_60772.html](http://www.td.gov.hk/en/traffic_notices/index_id_60772.html)) for details.

The bus company will display notices to advise passengers on the arrangements. Passengers are advised to pay attention to the arrangements of route diversions and suspension or relocation of bus stops.

Appropriate diversion signs will be erected on-site to guide motorists. The TD anticipates that owing to the diversion arrangements, the travelling time at the road sections concerned will be slightly lengthened. Motorists should exercise tolerance and patience.

Members of the public are advised to plan their journeys in advance and allow sufficient traveling time to cater for unexpected delay, and stay alert to the latest traffic news through the media or the TD's mobile application "HKeMobility" or website ([www.td.gov.hk](http://www.td.gov.hk)).