

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Monday, June 9, 2025 is 103.1 (down 0.2 against last Saturday's index).

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Saturday, June 7, 2025 is 103.3 (up 0.1 against last Friday's index).

Inspection of aquatic products imported from Japan

In response to the Japanese Government's plan to discharge nuclear-contaminated water at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station, the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene issued a Food Safety Order which prohibits all aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds originating from the 10 metropolis/prefectures, namely Tokyo, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Miyagi, Chiba, Gunma, Tochigi, Niigata, Nagano and Saitama, from being imported into and supplied in Hong Kong.

For other Japanese aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds that are not prohibited from being imported into Hong Kong, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is conducting comprehensive radiological tests to verify that the radiation levels of these products do not exceed the guideline levels before they are allowed to be supplied in the market.

From noon on June 6 to noon today (June 9), the CFS conducted tests on the radiological levels of 360 food samples imported from Japan, which were of the "aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt" category, in the past three days (including last Saturday and Sunday). No sample was found to have exceeded the safety limit. Details can be found on the CFS's thematic website titled "Control Measures on Foods Imported from Japan" (www.cfs.gov.hk/english/programme/programme_rafs/programme_rafs_fc_01_30_Nuclear_Event_and_Food_Safety.html).

In parallel, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has also tested 150 samples of local catch for radiological levels. All the samples passed the tests. Details can be found on the AFCD's website (www.afcd.gov.hk/english/fisheries/Radiological_testing/Radiological_Test.html).

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) has also enhanced the environmental monitoring of the local waters. No anomaly has been detected so far. For

details, please refer to the HKO's website (www.hko.gov.hk/en/radiation/monitoring/seawater.html).

From August 24, 2023, to noon today, the CFS and the AFCD have conducted tests on the radiological levels of 142 141 samples of food imported from Japan (including 93 527 samples of aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt) and 32 590 samples of local catch respectively. All the samples passed the tests.

Women Empowerment Fund invites 2025-26 first-round applications

The Women Empowerment Fund is open for the first round of applications this year starting from today (June 9) until July 8. The Fund subsidises projects that support women in balancing their career and family commitments, raise awareness of women's physical and mental health, and unlock their potential.

Set up in June 2023, the Fund aims to empower women, regardless of their age, occupation or background, to realise their full potential in their respective roles, thereby promoting women's development in Hong Kong.

The Fund is divided into general and thematic projects. The funding cap of each one-year and two-year general project is \$400,000 and \$800,000 respectively.

This year's thematic projects include the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Exchange Programme and the Programme on Women's Participation in Community Services. The exchange programme will enable women to broaden their horizons, deepen their understanding of national affairs, and interact with local residents, thereby promoting women's development. Each exchange project shall be completed within one year, and the funding cap is \$120,000. In addition, the community services programme aims to encourage women to make use of their own strengths to plan and launch community service projects, thereby promoting care and inclusion. Each community services project shall be completed within one year, and the funding cap is \$400,000.

The Fund accepts two rounds of applications each year. The Guide to Application and the application form have been uploaded to the Fund's website (www.wef.gov.hk). Interested eligible women's groups and non-governmental organisations may submit an electronic or paper application.

Pop Culture Festival “Music and Laughs” Concert tickets on sale from June 10

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will present the "Music and Laughs" Concert, one of the highlights of the Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival 2025. Curated by award-winning veteran producer Edward Chan, the concert will feature five popular singers or artists and accomplished musicians, delivering a delightful performance. With comedy and music as the main themes, the concert weaves together elements of drama, dance, and unique stage design, offering an unforgettable evening filled with laughter and joy.

Edward Chan, who has arranged and produced songs for numerous renowned pop artists, will curate tailor-made performances for Jason Chan, Jay Fung, Cath Wong, Dee@ERROR, and FatBoy@ERROR, showcasing their distinct characteristics and strengths through diverse collaborations and presentation formats. Accompanied by the Symphonic Pops Orchestra under the baton of Fung Ka-hing and a live band of rising young musicians, the concert promises a surprising and whimsical musical spark.

"Music and Laughs" Concert will be staged at 8pm on July 19 and 20 at the Grand Theatre of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Tickets priced at \$388, \$688, \$888 and \$1,088 will be available from tomorrow (June 10) at URBtIX (www.urbtix.hk). Only Internet, mobile app and telephone (3166 1288) bookings are available on the first ticket sale day, while outlet and self-service ticketing kiosk bookings will be available from the second ticket sale day. A maximum of 10 tickets can be purchased per transaction per person on the first ticket sale day, and a maximum of 40 tickets can be purchased per transaction per person from the second ticket sale day.

For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 3755 3359 or visit www.pcf.gov.hk/en/programmes/music-laughs-concert.

This year, the LCSD presents the third Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival, themed "More Than Joy". Humour has been a trendsetter in Hong Kong's pop culture scene. The Festival features a diverse range of formats including stage performances, film screenings, thematic exhibitions, and library and outreach activities. Offering insight into the multifaceted development of Hong Kong's pop culture along the line of "happiness", the Festival brings audiences not only joy and laughter but also an opportunity to appreciate how pop culture can be transmitted and transformed, and how integration and breakthroughs are possible. For more information, please visit www.pcf.gov.hk/en.

Postal services to Morocco return to normal

â€‹Hongkong Post announced today (June 9) that, as advised by the postal administration of Morocco, mail delivery services previously impacted by a fire incident at a warehouse of a local airport have returned to normal.