

Government further enhances support measures for travel industry

The Government announced today (June 8) that to further enhance the support for the travel industry, the Green Lifestyle Local Tour Incentive Scheme will be enhanced and the Training Programme Subsidy Scheme for tourist guides will be extended.

At the end of December 2019, the Government announced the introduction of the Green Lifestyle Local Tour Incentive Scheme, under which each travel agent can obtain a cash incentive of \$100 for each Hong Kong resident for whom it arranges an eligible green lifestyle local tour. Nonetheless, in the past few months the scheme could not achieve the desired effect of supporting the trade, which has been affected by the coronavirus disease 2019 epidemic. As the epidemic has been subsiding, the Government has decided to increase the commitment for this scheme from the original \$50 million to \$100 million, and will discuss with the trade details of further enhancing the scheme.

Furthermore, since the end of October 2019, the Government has been subsidising, through the Training Programme Subsidy Scheme implemented by the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong (TIC), tourist guides with a maximum of \$1,000 each in completing the Continuing Professional Development Scheme for renewing Tourist Guide Passes until October 27, 2020. In view of the suspension of training courses caused by the epidemic early this year, the Government has decided to extend the subsidy initiative for six months until April 27, 2021, to enable tourist guides to complete courses within a longer time frame in order to obtain subsidies. More than 5 000 accredited tourist guides are expected to benefit from the initiative. For any enquiries, please contact the TIC (Tel: 2969 8155 or 2969 8162).

CuMask+[TM] available for collection at post offices and other designated locations starting next Monday

The online registration period for the CuMask+™ ended last Saturday (June 6). Hong Kong residents who have not obtained the CuMask+™ through online registration may collect the masks at post offices and other designated locations starting next Monday (June 15). Details will be announced shortly.

The Innovation and Technology Bureau thanked the public today (June 8) for their support. Over 1.44 million registrations were received through the online system during the one-month registration period, covering more than 3.93 million registrants in total. More than 3.38 million masks have been delivered successfully by Hongkong Post, and the rest are expected to be delivered within this week.

The Government has also dispatched the CuMask+™ to schools, residential homes and social welfare institutions directly. These are not included in the aforementioned delivery by Hongkong Post. Child and child (small) sized CuMask+™ have been sent to primary schools and kindergartens directly. Each student will receive two masks, while each P6 student will receive an extra adult size mask. Including the buffer reserved for prospective P1 and K1 students in the coming school year, a total of 1.4 million masks have already been delivered to schools for distribution to students.

Residential homes and social welfare institutions have been given over 140 000 CuMask+™ in addition, for further distribution to the elderly and the homeless. Delivery was completed in early May.

Tender for re-opening of 15-year Government Bonds under Institutional Bond Issuance Programme to be held on June 17

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), as representative of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSAR Government), announces today (June 8) that a tender of 10-year Government Bonds (Bonds) through the re-opening of existing 15-year Government Bond issue 15GB3007 under the Institutional Bond Issuance Programme will be held on June 17 (Wednesday), for settlement on June 18 (Thursday).

An additional amount of HK\$1.7 billion of the outstanding 15-year Bonds (issue no. 15GB3007) will be on offer. The Bonds will mature on July 16, 2030 and will carry interest at the rate of 2.13 per cent per annum payable semi-annually in arrears. The Indicative Pricings of the Bonds on June 8 is 113.69 with an annualised yield of 0.725 per cent.

Under the Institutional Bond Issuance Programme, tender is open only to Recognized Dealers which are appointed as Primary Dealers. Anyone wishing to apply for the Bonds on offer can do so through any of the Primary Dealers on

the current published list, which can be obtained from the Government Bond Programme's website at www.hkgb.gov.hk. Each tender must be for an amount of HK\$50,000 or integral multiples thereof.

Tender results will be published on the HKMA's website, the Government Bond Programme's website, the Reuters screen (HKGBINDEX), and Bloomberg (GBHK <GO>) not later than 3pm on the tender day.

HKSAR Government Institutional Bond Issuance Programme Tender Information

Tender information of re-opening of 15-year Government Bonds under the Institutional Bond Issuance Programme:

Issue Number	:	15GB3007 (Re-open)
Stock code	:	4227 (HKGB 2.13 3007)
Tender Date and Time	:	June 17, 2020 (Wednesday) 9.30am to 10.30am
Issue and Settlement Date for tender amount	:	June 18, 2020 (Thursday)
Amount on Offer	:	HK\$1.7 billion
Maturity	:	10 years
Remaining Maturity	:	Approximately 10.08 years
Maturity Date	:	July 16, 2030
Interest Rate	:	2.13 per cent p.a. payable semi-annually in arrears

July 16, 2020
 January 18, 2021
 July 16, 2021
 January 17, 2022
 July 18, 2022
 January 16, 2023
 July 17, 2023
 January 16, 2024
 July 16, 2024
 January 16, 2025
 Interest Payment Dates : July 16, 2025
 : January 16, 2026
 : July 16, 2026
 : January 18, 2027
 : July 16, 2027
 : January 17, 2028
 : July 17, 2028
 : January 16, 2029
 : July 16, 2029
 : January 16, 2030
 : July 16, 2030

Method of Tender : Competitive tender

Tender Amount : Each competitive tender must be for an amount of HK\$50,000 or integral multiples thereof. Any tender applications for the Bonds must be submitted through a Primary Dealer on the current published list.

: The accrued interest to be paid by successful bidders on the issue date (June 18, 2020) for the tender amount is HK\$449.34 per minimum denomination of HK\$50,000.

: (The accrued interest to be paid for tender amount exceeding HK\$50,000 may not be exactly equal to the figures calculated from the accrued interest per minimum denomination of HK\$50,000 due to rounding).

Other details : Please see Information Memorandum available on the Government Bond Programme's website at www.hkgb.gov.hk or approach Primary Dealers.

Expected commencement date of dealing on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited : The tender amount is fully fungible with the existing 15GB3007 (Stock code: 4227) listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong.

Price/Yield Table of the re-opening Government Bonds at tender for reference* only:

Yield-to-Maturity Price		Yield-to-Maturity Price	
-0.275	124.60	0.725	113.64
-0.225	124.02	0.775	113.13
-0.175	123.45	0.825	112.61
-0.125	122.88	0.875	112.10
-0.075	122.31	0.925	111.59
-0.025	121.75	0.975	111.08
0.025	121.19	1.025	110.58
0.075	120.63	1.075	110.08
0.125	120.07	1.125	109.58
0.175	119.52	1.175	109.09
0.225	118.97	1.225	108.59
0.275	118.43	1.275	108.10
0.325	117.88	1.325	107.61
0.375	117.34	1.375	107.13
0.425	116.81	1.425	106.64
0.475	116.27	1.475	106.16
0.525	115.74	1.525	105.69
0.575	115.21	1.575	105.21
0.625	114.69	1.625	104.74
0.675	114.16	1.675	104.27
0.725	113.64	1.725	103.80

* Disclaimer

The information provided here is for reference only. Although extreme care has been taken to ensure that the information provided is accurate and up-to-date, the HKMA does not warrant that all, or any part of, the information provided is accurate in all respects. You are encouraged to conduct your own enquiries to verify any particular piece of information provided on it. The HKMA shall not be liable for any loss or damage suffered as a result of any use or reliance on any of the information provided here.

[Hong Kong Customs makes record seizure of suspected scheduled totoaba fish maws \(with photos\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs seized about 160 kilograms of suspected scheduled totoaba fish maws with an estimated market value of about \$25 million at Hong Kong International Airport on June 4. The seizure broke the past records of

totoaba fish maw seizures by both weight and value counted in a single case. It also surpassed the total seizure amount marked in Customs' records. This is the first seizure of fresh totoaba fish maws made by Customs while the totoaba fish maws seized in the past cases were all dried.

Through risk assessment, Customs officers inspected an air consignment, declared to be carrying fresh fish, arriving in Hong Kong from the United States on that day. Upon inspection, Customs officers found 20 styrofoam boxes labelled with Mexico as the origin. The batch of suspected scheduled fresh Totoaba macdonaldi fish maws mix-loaded with frozen fish fillets was found in 15 styrofoam boxes.

After follow-up investigation, Customs officers arrested two men, aged 36 and 40, suspected to be connected with the case at a warehouse in Yuen Long on June 5.

Customs officers then carried out further investigation and further arrested three men, aged between 38 and 57, suspected to be connected with the case at the same warehouse and in Fanling on June 6.

Investigation is ongoing and the five arrested men have been released on bail pending further investigation.

Customs has detected nine cases involving totoaba fish maws with a total seizure of about 37kg since records began in 2002.

Under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting an endangered species without a licence is liable to a maximum fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years.

With the recent reduction in air passenger traffic, Customs has been stepping up enforcement against trafficking activities of prohibited and controlled items through air cargo, postal parcel and express courier channels.

Members of the public may report any suspected smuggling activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



Transcript of remarks of press conference on Cash Payout Scheme (with video)

The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, joined by the Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury), Ms Alice Lau; the Co-ordinator (Special Duties) of the Financial Secretary's Office, Ms Jessie Wong; and the Government Chief Information Officer, Mr Victor Lam, held a press conference this morning (June 8) on the Cash Payout Scheme. Following is the transcript of remarks of the press conference.

Reporter: Secretary, can you talk about, like, the privacy issues? I heard you mention that this may be used again, but are you saying that this will only be used for giving money to residents or would there be other occasions where data collected here would be passed on to other departments? And can you briefly talk about the process involving the cash handouts, say, for a person who has been using e-banking, what would be the steps? For a person who is going through the paperwork, the Hongkong Post step, how would that involve, like would that mean people are waiting for a longer period of time for the money? Thank you.

Financial Secretary: The fastest way to receive the money from the Government is to apply through electronic registration via your banks and receive the money through direct transfer into bank account. This is the fastest way. If the registration is to be done in paper form, obviously it will entail more administrative procedures and the time required will be longer. As to your question about data privacy, if I may invite Ms Wong to respond to that.

Co-ordinator (Special Duties) of the Financial Secretary's Office: We will set out clearly in the personal information collection statement in the registration form, stating that the personal data we collected for this scheme will also be used for similar schemes, like cash or non-cash handout or refund, if any, in the future. We will set out clearly that the schemes are for similar purpose(s), say, to relieve people's financial difficulties, boost local consumption and/or share the wealth of the Government. In gist, we will set out clearly the purposes that we may use the data for in future schemes. So, when the registrants make the registration, they will give consent for the purposes.

Reporter: Sorry, just a follow up, of that private bank, like virtual bank asking people to register through them to get an extra \$1,000, do you think people should be concerned about their privacy ...?

Financial Secretary: I understand that there is a virtual bank launching promotional programmes to offer people to open account with them with some

financial incentive. In this respect, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority has all along put in place very stringent data privacy requirements to make sure the banks are using the data collected properly for banking purposes. The requirement in this respect is the same regardless of whether it is a virtual bank or a bank with physical branches. I believe going forward when this cash payout scheme is launched, the business sector may roll out different incentive programmes to attract target customers, but we are very confident in our regulatory framework and requirement with regard to the protection of the integrity of the data collected by these different institutions.

Reporter: Hi, Secretary, can I ask what are your considerations of whether to give out a second round of cash-out payment? Will you consider about the high unemployment rate or the hard-hit situation meanwhile in the society? Thank you.

Financial Secretary: We keep an open mind as to whether to do another round of cash handout. We are monitoring the situation very closely, but I would reiterate that to deal with the economic challenge and to relieve the pressure on our people, we need to have a combination of measures. Cash handout is just one of these measures. In terms of direct assistance to the people, apart from cash payout we have schemes like rebate of taxes, rebate of rates, etc, but we have to tackle the issue in a comprehensive manner, meaning apart from direct payout to our people, we need to support employment, we need to roll out measures to sectors hard hit by the current pandemic situation. All in all, in the Budget as well as the two rounds of Anti-epidemic Fund, the total amount of different measures comes to about \$290 billion, which is quite a lot. In this financial year, 2020-21, we are expecting a very high deficit, to the order of about \$280 billion or more. So we have to be very careful, having due regard to the affordability of the Government in rolling out different measures.

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