

Response to media enquiries by Development Bureau and Lands Department

In response to media enquiries on a site, New Kowloon Inland Lot No. 6546 at Kai Tak Area 4C Site 4, Kai Tak, Kowloon, the spokespersons for the Development Bureau (DEVB) and the Lands Department (LandsD) responded as follows today (June 11).

The LandsD announced on May 15 that the tender for a site, New Kowloon Inland Lot No. 6546 (the lot) at Kai Tak Area 4C Site 4, Kai Tak, Kowloon, had been awarded to High Smart Investment Limited (parent company: Frontier Journey Limited) for a term of 50 years at a premium of \$11,124,470,520. High Smart Investment Limited is the highest tenderer.

According to General Condition No. 2 of the Conditions of Sale (the Conditions) governing the lot, the Purchaser, i.e. High Smart Investment Limited, shall pay the balance of the premium being the amount of \$11,099,470,520 on or before June 11. In the event that the Purchaser fails to pay the balance of premium by the deadline as mentioned above, the Government may either enforce or cancel the sale in accordance with General Condition No. 3 of the Conditions. On cancellation, the sum forwarded by the Purchaser with his tender as a deposit (being \$25,000,000) shall be wholly forfeited to the Government, and the Government will decide to resell the lot at such time and in such manner as the Government shall deem fit. The Government also reserves its rights to claim against the Purchaser for the breach of contract under the Conditions. The LandsD will take appropriate actions in accordance with General Condition No. 3 of the Conditions after seeking legal advice.

A spokesperson for the DEVB said that this was an individual case and the Government would not comment on the decision of the tenderer or its parent company, which was made in accordance with their own business considerations. The Government will continue to provide steady land supply to the market, which will not be affected by the result of an individual tender exercise.

Speech by CE at Asian University for Women Gala Dinner (English Only) (with

[photos/video](#)

Following is the speech by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at the Asian University for Women Gala Dinner this evening (June 11):

Mr Ahmad (the Founder of the Asian University for Women, Mr Kamal Ahmad), ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening. It really gives me great pleasure to join you tonight for Hong Kong's third Asian University for Women (AUW) Gala Dinner.

Like countries and economies, institutions and individuals all over the world, Hong Kong has embraced the AUW, its vision, its inspiration and, in just over a decade, its resounding impact throughout the region. Like me, you are here this evening because you believe in the mandate of the AUW, and because you are heartened by the promise of its students, women largely from Asia's rural and economically marginalised regions. We are all exhilarated by their potential to become leaders in their countries and communities, and to have a voice that is heard and respected.

Education plays a big part in unleashing women's potential. I grew up in a grassroots family, and my parents were uneducated. However, they attached great importance to my education and put me in the best school they could find in those days. Their decision has no doubt changed my life. I went on to study in the University of Hong Kong, and after graduation, I began my long public service career, starting out as a young Administrative Officer 39 years ago. In less than three weeks, I'll mark my second year as Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region – the first woman to hold this office. I'm sure I won't be the last.

I am definitely not the only woman who has benefited from Hong Kong's education. It's worth noting that, since the first female student was admitted to the University of Hong Kong in 1921, Hong Kong has achieved gender equality in education. Our female students are flourishing and excelling academically. Indeed, women today represent 54 per cent of the students enrolled in undergraduate programmes funded by our University Grants Committee. And more and more women in our universities are focusing on disciplines that were traditionally dominated by men. Just two decades ago, about 37 per cent of Hong Kong medical students were female. Today more than half of our medical students are women. Consider, too, engineering and technology majors. From about 14 per cent two decades ago, female students focused on those disciplines now count 30 per cent of the total.

Gender equality in education has enabled our women to enjoy equal employment opportunities. In Hong Kong, women are protected by the same labour legislation as men are. Women now comprise nearly half of our solicitors and public accountants, compared to about one-third two decades ago. Over the same period, managerial positions in Hong Kong have gone from about 20 per cent filled by women to 35 per cent. Those percentages are very much similar to those in our Government. Today, more than one-third of Hong

Kong civil servants at the directorate level, that is the most senior level, are women. Two decades ago, that percentage was just over 15 per cent.

Still, working women do face a lot of challenges in striking a balance between their important role in their family and the development of their career. The participation rate of our female labour force last year was just under 51 per cent; for men it was 68.5 per cent. Clearly, we have some ways to go yet in creating a society that is as balanced in terms of careers as it is in educational opportunities.

As Chief Executive, I can assure you that creating a level playing field for women in business is a high priority for my Government. That's why I proposed in my Policy Address last October a number of pro-women measures. These measures include expanding maternity leave from 10 weeks to 14 weeks, with the extra four weeks in maternity leave pay to be borne in full by the Government. We plan to introduce the amended legislation in the Legislative Council before the end of this year.

We are also working on a variety of measures to enhance child-care services so as to enable women with young children to take up or stay in employment. We will provide more facilities for breastfeeding, and legislative amendments to prohibit discrimination against breastfeeding have been introduced to the Legislative Council. We will introduce in the coming school year free cervical cancer vaccination for school girls of particular age groups. We will also continue our efforts to raise the proportion of female members in statutory bodies and advisory committees, so that women's voices will be heard in policy making. By the way, our Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, which runs the very important stock market in Hong Kong, is now having its first-ever Chairlady, Mrs Laura Cha. We will together call on all listed companies to appoint more females as their board members.

In short, we will create every opportunity we can for the women of Hong Kong. Equal opportunity, whether in work, education or any other sphere of society, is essential to creating a caring and inclusive community. And in enabling the ambitions of women – whether in Hong Kong, in Bangladesh or any other country or economy – we can ensure a thriving future for us all.

The A UW is helping to realise that future. Since opening in 2008, A UW has graduated more than 800 students, including 100 who proudly received their degrees one month ago. Some 20 per cent of them will go on to graduate school at prestigious institutions all over the world. And when classes begin again in August, A UW will be home to some 950 women from 17 countries. And 90 per cent of those students will be there at the A UW campus in Chittagong, Bangladesh, on a full scholarship – thanks to you. Thanks to your understanding, your generosity, your unshakable determination to be a force for social change. That's a formidable force for good.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to support A UW for its wonderful mission.

Thank you.



[Appeal for information on missing man in Tin Sum \(with photo\)](#)

Police today (June 11) appealed to the public for information on a man who went missing in Tin Sum.

Yu Hoi-man, aged 44, went missing after he left a hostel in Chun Shek Estate on June 7 morning. Staff of the hostel made a report to Police yesterday (June 10).

He is about 1.65 metres tall, 68 kilograms in weight and of fat build. He has a round face with yellow complexion and short black hair. He was last seen wearing a pair of black-rimmed glasses, a black short-sleeved T-shirt, black shorts and black shoes.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing man or may have seen him is urged to contact the Regional Missing Person Unit of New Territories South on 3661 1174 or 6025 6218 or email to rmpu-nts-2@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.



[Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected scheduled Guibourtia species wood logs \(with photo\)](#)

â€‹Hong Kong Customs inspected one lot of containers in May and seized about 74 400 kilograms of suspected scheduled Guibourtia species wood logs with an estimated market value of about \$600 000.

Through risk assessment, Customs officers inspected one lot of containers, declared to contain wood logs arriving in Hong Kong from Gabon, at the Tsing Yi Cargo Examination Compound. Upon inspection, Customs officers found the suspected scheduled Guibourtia species wood logs in three of the containers.

The case was handed over to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for follow-up investigation.

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.

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).



[CHP investigates scabies outbreak at elderly home in Tuen Mun](#)

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (June 11) investigating an outbreak of scabies at a residential care home for the elderly (RCHE) in Tuen Mun, and reminded the public to maintain strict personal and environmental hygiene against scabies.

The outbreak involves six male and 14 female residents aged 73 to 95. They have presented with skin itchiness and rash since May 5. All sought medical attention and none required hospitalisation. All patients have been in a stable condition.

The skin scraping of an affected person was confirmed to have *Sarcoptes scabiei* after laboratory examination.

Officers of the CHP have conducted a site visit and advised the RCHE to adopt necessary infection control measures against scabies infections. The RCHE has been put under medical surveillance.

RCHEs are reminded to follow the [Guidelines on Prevention of Communicable Diseases](#) on preventive and control measures as well as management of outbreaks, which should be reported to the CHP for prompt follow-up.

"Scabies is a skin disease caused by a mite called *Sarcoptes scabiei* and usually spreads through direct skin contact with infested people. Their clothing and bedding may also carry the mites and eggs and transmit the disease. Infested people usually present with intense itchiness. The common affected areas are finger webs, and skin folds of wrists, elbows, armpits, nipples, the lower abdomen, external genitalia, buttocks and groins. It can affect people of all ages, but people with weakened immunity or the elderly are more susceptible. Scabies can spread rapidly in crowded conditions, hence outbreaks of scabies have been reported in hospitals, child-care facilities, hostels and elderly homes," a spokesman for the CHP said.

The public should maintain good personal and environmental hygiene for protection against scabies infestation:

- Keep good personal hygiene, perform hand hygiene frequently and bath daily;
- Regularly change into clean clothing and regularly change towels and bed linen;
- Avoid sharing clothing and personal items with others;
- Perform skin inspection for institutionalised residents regularly for early identification of infestation;
- When caring for and coming into contact with infested persons, wear appropriate personal protective gear such as gloves and a gown;
- Wash hands thoroughly before and after contact with an infested person;
- Wash the clothing, towels and bed linen of infested persons separately. These items should be washed in hot water at 60 degrees Celsius or above for not less than 10 minutes so as to kill the mites and their eggs. Place non-washable items in a plastic bag and seal it up for at least 14 days before reuse;
- If you suspect scabies, seek medical advice immediately.