

# Flower Show's Green Recycling Day Launched (with photos)

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is once again holding Green Recycling Day (GRD) activities upon the conclusion of the Hong Kong Flower Show. The GRD programme will be held today and tomorrow (March 25 and 26) with an aim of reinforcing green measures and reducing waste, and reflects the LCSD's commitment to implementing green measures for environmental protection in its large-scale events.

Officiating at the GRD launch ceremony today at the Victoria Park showground were the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs, Mrs Cherry Tse; the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services, Ms Michelle Li; and the Chairmen or representatives of the 18 District Councils.

The LCSD has been adhering to the guidelines stipulated in the guidance booklet on waste reduction and implementing related measures each year to enhance the environmental performance of the flower show. This year, the LCSD has implemented a series of green measures, appealing to all stakeholders including exhibitors, contractors, volunteers and the public to apply the 3R concept – "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" – for waste management.

More than 300 volunteers were recruited to assist in separating and collecting reusable and recyclable materials at the showground for waste reduction today. They are students from tertiary institutions, green ambassadors, green volunteers, youth ambassadors and volunteers from the LCSD, the Hong Kong Jockey Club and commercial organisations.

As in previous years, flowers suitable for replanting and landscape displays suitable for reuse will be relocated to LCSD parks and amenity areas for public enjoyment.

To encourage greening in the community, flowers suitable for replanting are also distributed via the "Give the Flowers a New Home!" Jockey Club Flower Replanting Scheme to schools, environmental groups and non-governmental organisations. This year, about 28 000 potted plants were distributed to some 150 participating organisations.

Pots of the theme flower Chinese hibiscus that are suitable for replanting have also been distributed to the public at the Sugar Street entrance to the park. Around 5 000 pots of Chinese hibiscus were distributed today.

A variety of green measures were implemented at different stages of the flower show. During the preparation phase, the stakeholders were provided with guidance on waste reduction. Exhibitors were encouraged to use recyclable materials with environmentally friendly elements in their display designs. While cleaning up their exhibits, they were reminded to take back

reusable materials and to separate the resources properly before delivering them to appropriate collection points. Volunteers were also recruited and trained to assist in green measures, enhancing the message of environmental protection and offering assistance to the stakeholders for recyclables collection at these points.

During the show period, QR codes were displayed at the showground for visitors to access relevant information on the show. Visitors were also encouraged to bring their own bottles, utensils and bags. Three-colour waste separation bins were placed for collection of waste paper, metals and plastics, with green ambassadors on hand to guide the public.

In collaboration with the Environmental Campaign Committee and the Environmental Protection Department, free lending of 12 500 items of reusable tableware was also arranged for the showground daily to reduce the use of disposable tableware. Apart from food waste collection points, clean recycling stations were also added to enhance clean recycling of plastic bottles, aluminium cans and glass bottles. Recyclables Collection Points have facilitated the collection of different recyclables including carton boxes, plastic flower pots and other plastics, soil, metals, wooden planks and more in addition to wilted flowers.

The wilted plants collected are being delivered to the Animal Waste Composting Plant in Ngau Tam Mei for recycling into useful organic compost.

At the GRD launch ceremony today, winners of "Highest Popularity Garden Plot Award of 18 Districts" and "Best Local Characteristic Garden Plot Award of 18 Districts" were also announced, with both awards going to Southern District. These awards were launched this year and members of the public could vote via QR codes on-site or vote online during the show period. Moreover, the three awards for the green stalls, namely the Environmental Efficiency Award of Green Stalls, the Best Education Award of Green Stalls and the Best Design Award of Green Stalls, went to Green Power, the Wong Tai Sin District Council and the Kwai Tsing District Council respectively.

This year's flower show has enhanced environmental protection measures and encouraged the community to make concerted efforts under the slogan "Green Flower Show for All".





---

## [New function of Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme's subsidy enquiry website to allow viewing of detailed records of public transport expenses](#)

The Transport Department (TD) today (March 25) announced that a new function on the subsidy enquiry website of the Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme ([subsidy-enquiry.ptfss.hk](http://subsidy-enquiry.ptfss.hk)) will be introduced on April 1 (Monday) so that commuters can create an account and register their Octopus at the subsidy enquiry website to view the detailed record of public transport expenses under the Subsidy Scheme.

A spokesman for the TD added that commuters only need to provide their email address and password for completing the account creation procedures after verification by the system (see Annex). They should then log in to their account, enter their Octopus number, and visit any Octopus Service Point to tap the Octopus within seven days for completing the registration process. Each Octopus can only be registered to one account at any one time.

Apart from using the new function of the subsidy enquiry website, commuters can check the detailed record of public transport expenses through a password-protected account created in the Octopus App or through the Subsidy Scheme hotline.

For enquires about the details of the Subsidy Scheme, please see the website of the Subsidy Scheme ([ptfss.gov.hk](http://ptfss.gov.hk)) or call 1823.

---

# CE attends China Development Forum 2019 in Beijing (with photos/ video)

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, this morning (March 25) attended the China Development Forum 2019 organised by the Development Research Centre of the State Council at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing and delivered a speech at the session on "The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area: A Rising Star in the Global Economy".

Elaborating on the characteristics of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development from a global economy perspective in her speech, Mrs Lam quoted the three "unprecedented circumstances" surrounding the Greater Bay Area development as described by the Vice Premier of the State Council, Mr Han Zheng, in his remarks at the second plenary meeting of the Greater Bay Area Leading Group. He said that the high-level support and commitment to the Greater Bay Area by the Central Government is unprecedented; the response of the three governments and various sectors in the three places is highly enthusiastic; and the Greater Bay Area will take on an unprecedented historic role in the country's further reform and opening up. She emphasised that Hong Kong will faithfully uphold the principle of "One Country, Two Systems" and leverage on the city's clear and compelling strengths. Citing Hong Kong's strengths in finance and innovation and technology as examples, Mrs Lam said Hong Kong can play an active role in the Greater Bay Area development.

The Governor of Guangdong Province, Mr Ma Xingrui, and the Chief Executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region, Mr Chui Sai-on, also spoke in the session. Together with Mrs Lam, they answered questions from the participating guests. The session on the Greater Bay Area was one of the eight sessions in this year's forum, demonstrating the Greater Bay Area's key status in the national development.

Mrs Lam yesterday (March 24) attended the forum's opening ceremony and listened to the keynote speech delivered by Mr Han. She also attended various sessions with different guest speakers and the forum's 20th Anniversary Welcome Banquet. Vice President Wang Qishan attended the dinner to welcome guests from different places.

The China Development Forum has been hosted annually since 2000 with the aim of "Engaging with the World for Common Prosperity". The forum serves as a pivotal platform for dialogues between leaders of the Central Government, the global business community and international organisations as well as academia at home and abroad. The theme of this year's forum is "Greater Opening-up for Win-Win Cooperation" and the event is being held for three consecutive days (from March 23 to 25) in Beijing.

Mrs Lam will return to Hong Kong this afternoon.



---

## [Flower show's Chinese hibiscus distribution concluded](#)

Attention radio/TV announcers:

Please broadcast the following at suitable intervals:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (March 25) that the Hong Kong Flower Show's distribution of Chinese hibiscus to members of the public on Green Recycling Day has concluded. Members of the public are advised not to go to the venue for collection of flowers.

---

## [Speech by CE at China Development Forum 2019 in Beijing](#)

Following is the speech by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at "The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area: A Rising Star in the Global

Economy" session at the China Development Forum 2019 in Beijing today (March 25):

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. It gives me great pleasure to participate in the China Development Forum for the first time as the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administration Region (SAR). May I first join Governor Ma Xingrui in expressing our gratitude to the Development Research Centre of the State Council and the China Development Research Foundation for organising this dedicated session on the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and for the opportunity for me to speak to the distinguished audience here today.

As Governor Ma pointed out just now, the Greater Bay Area is an important national development strategy personally devised, planned and driven by President Xi Jinping. The objectives of this national strategy, as succinctly described by Vice Premier Han Zheng, who now leads a leadership group of the Greater Bay Area, is to leverage the complementary advantages of the nine cities in Guangdong and Hong Kong and Macao, deepen co-operation amongst the three places, and further enhance the Greater Bay Area's supporting and leading role in the country's economic development and opening up. To Hong Kong, a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China under the principle of "One Country, Two Systems" and enjoying a high degree of autonomy, the Greater Bay Area is an unprecedented opportunity to integrate into the national development and, through such integration, inject new impetus into our economic growth.

The Greater Bay Area development has been progressing with a lot of momentum, and for good reasons. In his opening remarks at the second plenary meeting of the leadership group earlier this month, Vice Premier Han mentioned three unprecedented circumstances surrounding the Greater Bay Area development. To respond to the theme of this seminar which is the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in the global economy, I have attempted to elaborate on each of these three characteristics of the Greater Bay Area with reference to the global economy.

Firstly, Vice Premier Han said that the high-level support and commitment to the Greater Bay Area, a regional development, by the Central Government is unprecedented. Apart from the personal guidance from President Xi, over 20 central ministries and commissions are represented at the Greater Bay Area Leading Group where policy guidance, effective co-ordination and practical measures are determined. For example, at the first plenary meeting, we were given the mandate to develop an international innovation and technology hub in the Greater Bay Area. At the second plenary meeting, eight measures from taxation to youth entrepreneurship were endorsed to facilitate the flow of people, goods, capital, etc. As the global economy is beset with uncertainties and instability as well as the rise of protectionism, the openness and inter-connectivity of the nine Mainland cities and the two Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macao under "one country", "two systems", "three customs territories", "three legal systems", etc is a solid demonstration of how economies with different characteristics can work

together to achieve a win-win outcome.

Secondly, Vice Premier Han observed that the response of the three governments and various sectors in the three places is highly enthusiastic. Speaking on behalf of Hong Kong, I can easily explain why. Despite its past successes, such as being rated as the world's freest economy by the US-based Heritage Foundation for 25 years in a row and the world's second most competitive economy by the Lausanne-based International Institute for Management Development in its latest report, Hong Kong could not rest on its laurels. In light of economic globalisation, our pillar industries are inevitably facing severe competition, for example, our container port in terms of cargo throughput has dropped from the world's number one in early 2000s to number seven in 2018, and new industries have not emerged. In addition, Hong Kong's further economic growth is hampered by the shortage of land and labour. The Greater Bay Area comprising some 70 million people, a territory of 56 000 square kilometres and an economy already surpassing that of Korea at some US\$1.6 trillion, provides Hong Kong with tremendous new opportunities. This city cluster has huge demands for quality services ranging from higher education, legal, accountancy and medical to sophisticated financial services such as raising of capital, risk management, asset management, etc. Hong Kong, the world's number three global financial centre and a predominantly service economy, stands ready to meet those needs.

Thirdly, Vice Premier Han told us that the Greater Bay Area will take on an unprecedented historic role in the country's further reform and opening up after four decades of remarkable success. As elucidated by President Xi in his 19th CPC National Congress report, China's economy has been transitioning from a phase of rapid growth to a stage of high-quality development. For China, this is a pivotal stage for transforming the growth model, improving the economic structure, and fostering new drivers of growth. Located at the forefront of China's opening up along the coast and with the pan-Pearl River Delta Region as its vast hinterland, the development of the Greater Bay Area signifies a new attempt to break new ground in pursuing opening up on all fronts in a new era. It will facilitate the early realisation of innovation-driven development to support the continued growth in innovation capability and competitiveness of the Chinese economy. It will facilitate the further deepening of reform and opening up, the building of a new system of open economy in line with international standards, and the development of a new platform for high-level international co-operation.

Given the unprecedented conditions and enormous opportunities, I am determined to lead Hong Kong to play an active role in the Greater Bay Area development. In so doing, we will faithfully uphold the principle of "One Country, Two Systems" and leverage on our clear and compelling strengths. One of these strengths is our financial prowess which accounted for 18.9 per cent of our GDP at the end of 2017.

According to the Global Financial Centres Index, Hong Kong ranks number three after New York and London. We have the world's fifth largest securities market with funds raised through IPO topping the world in six out of the

past 10 years, including last year with US\$36.5 billion raised. Some 70 of the world's top 100 banks are operating in Hong Kong and total assets managed amounted to US\$3.1 trillion in 2017. Benefitting from increased connectivity with the Mainland capital market, Hong Kong is the world's largest offshore RMB hub. Our insurance and bond markets are also growing to meet the needs of local, Mainland and overseas companies.

To position Hong Kong to seize the opportunities arising from the Greater Bay Area as well as the growing ASEAN markets, my Government has taken some significant initiatives. These include a new listing regime to accommodate the innovative companies and pre-revenue biotechnology companies; profits tax exemptions for onshore and offshore funds meeting certain conditions; grants to promote the issuance of bonds, especially green bonds in Hong Kong; mutual recognition of funds with the Mainland, the United Kingdom, France, Switzerland and Luxembourg; Faster Payment System and virtual banking licences to support fintech; and the setting up of an Academy of Finance to nurture local and Mainland talents. The Outline Development Plan for the Greater Bay Area has laid out the clear direction to develop an international financial hub to progressively promote mutual financial markets access and to vigorously develop special financial products and services. I look forward to Hong Kong taking a leading role in fulfilling these aspirations.

Developing an international innovation and technology hub in the Greater Bay Area has been given special emphasis in the Outline Development Plan. Although the innovation and technology sector accounted for a mere 0.7 per cent of Hong Kong's GDP in 2017 and our total R&D expenditure represents only 0.8 per cent of GDP, I see great prospects for Hong Kong to contribute to and benefit from an international innovation and technology hub in the Greater Bay Area. Here, our strengths lie in our local universities with three of them amongst the world's top 50, our translational capability at our two flagship institutions, the Science Park and Cyberport, our rule of law, robust intellectual property protection and international connections. Since taking office some 20 months ago, my Government has rolled out numerous policies and projects to advance our innovation and technology capability and invested some US\$13 billion, and introduced a super tax deduction to incentivise private businesses to invest in R&D. While these measures will take some time to produce tangible results, we are thrilled by the very positive response from renowned overseas institutions in collaborating with our local universities to establish research centres in two research clusters at the Science Park on health technology and artificial intelligence and robotics. Over the past several months, I have witnessed MOUs signed by local universities with Harvard, Stanford and Johns Hopkins from the United States, Imperial College and University College London from the United Kingdom, Institut Pasteur from France and Fraunhofer Institute from Germany, etc. Prior to this initiative, the Karolinska Institutet of Sweden and an MIT Innovation Node have already established their presence in Hong Kong. These efforts of the Hong Kong SAR are set to help accelerate the development of major technological infrastructure facilities and cross-border, cross-study collaborative research in the Greater Bay Area, and will enhance the in-depth integration of industries, academia and research.



In addition, Hong Kong's deep and liquid capital market will promote the commercial application of technological achievements through direct financing by private equity funds or capital raising through listing. In my view, the Greater Bay Area has good potential to become not only the Silicon Valley of the East but also Silicon Valley and Wall Street within the same city cluster.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me end by referring to a statement in the Preamble of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and I quote, "The development of the Greater Bay Area is not only a new attempt to break new ground in pursuing opening up on all fronts in a new era, but also a further step in taking forward the practice of 'One Country, Two Systems'". Hong Kong looks forward to working closely not only with the nine Mainland cities in Guangdong and Macao, but also businesses and institutions who share our vision for technological advancement and economic prosperity. Thank you.