

Fraudulent website related to China CITIC Bank International 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 China CITIC Bank International 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.

Red tide sighted

A red tide has been sighted over the past week, an inter-departmental red tide working group reported today (March 8).

The red tide was spotted by staff of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department at Golden Beach, Tuen Mun, on March 4 and the red flag was hoisted at the beach immediately. The red tide has dissipated and no associated death of fish has been reported.

A spokesman for the working group said, "The red tide was formed by *Mesodinium rubrum*, which is commonly found in Hong Kong waters and is non-toxic."

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) urged mariculturists at Ma Wan fish culture zone to monitor the situation closely and increase aeration where necessary.

Red tide is a natural phenomenon. The AFCD's proactive phytoplankton monitoring programme will continue monitoring red tide occurrences to minimise the impact on the mariculture industry and the public.

Illegal worker jailed

A Vietnamese illegal worker was jailed by Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday (March 7).

During operation "Twilight" on March 5, Immigration Department (ImmD) investigators raided a hair salon in Hung Hom. A female Vietnamese illegal worker, aged 40, was arrested. She was suspected of working as a salon assistant. An employer suspected of employing the illegal worker was also arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

The illegal worker was charged at Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday with taking employment after landing in Hong Kong unlawfully and remaining in Hong Kong without the authority of the Director of Immigration or while being a person in respect of whom a removal order or deportation order was in force. She pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment. In addition, the female Vietnamese illegal worker was also charged with one count of using a forged Hong Kong identity card and one count of possession of a forged Hong Kong identity card, and was sentenced to imprisonment of 15 and 12 months respectively. All sentences are to run concurrently, making a total of 15 months' imprisonment.

The ImmD spokesman warned that, as stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, illegal immigrants or people who are the subject of a removal order or a deportation order are prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining in any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. The Court of Appeal has issued a guideline ruling that a sentence of 15 months' imprisonment should be applied in such cases. It is an offence to use or possess a forged Hong Kong identity card or a Hong Kong identity card related to another person. Offenders are liable to prosecution and a maximum penalty of a \$100,000 fine and up to 10 years' imprisonment.

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for three years and a fine of \$350,000. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence. According to the court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card. The maximum penalty for failing to inspect such a document is imprisonment for one year and a fine of \$150,000.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure, conduct initial screening on vulnerable persons, including illegal workers, illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers, who are arrested during any operation, with a view to ascertaining whether they are trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threat and coercion in the recruitment phase and the nature of exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various forms of support and assistance, including urgent interference, medical services, counselling, shelter, temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments.

EMSD announces test results of LPG quality in February 2019

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) today (March 8) announced that the department collected 10 liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) samples from auto-LPG filling stations and LPG terminals on a random basis in February 2019 for laboratory tests. The results showed that the LPG quality of all these samples complied with auto-LPG specifications.

The detailed test results are available on the EMSD's website (www.emsd.gov.hk/en/rl/lpg_sample_analysis_simple). Enquiries can also be made to the EMSD's hotline on 2333 3762.

In addition, the EMSD has been vetting independent third-party test reports submitted by LPG supply companies for each shipment to ensure that the quality of imported LPG complies with the specified requirements.

STH to lead HKMPB delegation to Nordic countries

The Secretary for Transport and Housing and Chairman of the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board (HKMPB), Mr Frank Chan Fan, will lead a delegation comprising members of the HKMPB and representatives of the maritime industry to visit Copenhagen in Denmark, and Oslo and Bergen in Norway from March 11

to 15 to promote Hong Kong as an international maritime centre.

Arriving in Copenhagen, Denmark on March 11, the delegation will call on various maritime-related organisations including the Danish Maritime Authority, the Danish Ship Finance and the Danish Maritime Fund, meet with local shipowners and industry representatives, and visit the Copenhagen Business School to learn about the local maritime industry and related developments. Mr Chan will give a speech at a seminar-cum-luncheon jointly organised by the HKMPB, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London (London ETO), and the Denmark-Hong Kong Trade Association.

On March 13, the delegation will proceed to Oslo, Norway. Mr Chan will call on the Minister of Trade and Industry of Norway, Mr Torbjørn Røe Isaksen, and will deliver a speech at a seminar-cum-reception jointly organised by the HKMPB, the HKTDC, the London ETO and the Norway-Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce. Joined by members of the delegation, Mr Chan will visit a hybrid electric sightseeing vessel. They will also meet with DNV GL, an international accredited ship classification society.

On March 15, the delegation will visit Bergen, Norway for the last leg of their Nordic tour. They will call on local shipping enterprises and tour various types of green vessels to learn about the development of green shipping. They will also meet with the Mayor of Bergen, Ms Marte Mjøs Persen, and representatives of the local maritime sector.

Mr Chan will return to Hong Kong in the afternoon on March 16. During his absence, the Under Secretary for Transport and Housing, Dr Raymond So Wai-man, will be the Acting Secretary for Transport and Housing.