

## **SHA visits Wan Chai District**

The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Lau Kong-wah, visited Wan Chai District today (March 1) to tour a music school in the district. He also visited a co-working space and met with members of the Wan Chai District Council (WCDC).

Accompanied by the Chairman of the WCDC, Mr Stephen Ng, and the District Officer (Wan Chai), Mr Rick Chan, Mr Lau first visited Haw Par Music Farm to learn about how the Grade I historic building Haw Par Mansion was revitalised into a music school. Haw Par Music Farm provides music training and community outreach activities to foster cross-cultural exchange between Chinese and Western music, art and culture.

Mr Lau then proceeded to Mustard Seed Co-working Space to tour the co-working space and met with its young users. Mustard Seed Co-working Space is one of the participating properties under the Space Sharing Scheme for Youth. In addition to leasing shared space to young entrepreneurs at concessionary rent, they also provide related start-up support such as thematic seminars and workshops.

Before concluding his visit, Mr Lau met with WCDC members to exchange views on various district issues.

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## **Cheung Chau Sports Ground to reopen**

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (March 1) that Cheung Chau Sports Ground in Islands District will be reopened for public use at 6pm today, except for tracks No. 2 to 4 of the all-weather running track which are still under repair. The sports ground was temporarily closed earlier for use as a temporary emergency helicopter landing site.

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## **Advisory Committee on Chinese Medicine Development Fund set up**

The Food and Health Bureau announced today (March 1) the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Chinese Medicine Development Fund to advise and make recommendations to the Government on matters relating to the overall

administration and operation of the Fund.

The Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, said, "The Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Address announced the establishment of a \$500 million dedicated fund. We aim to provide Chinese medicine practitioners and Chinese medicine drug sectors with financial support through the Fund to jointly promote the development of Chinese medicine and enhance the overall standard of the industry, by nurturing talent necessary for the Chinese medicine hospital development and promoting Chinese medicine-related studies and scientific research as well as providing assistance to local Chinese medicine traders in enhancing the quality and standards of production and registration of proprietary Chinese medicines in accordance with statutory requirements. It is also intended to enhance public knowledge and understanding of Chinese medicine."

The Committee, for which the Chairman and members are appointed by the Secretary for Food and Health, comprises representatives from the sectors of Chinese medicine practitioners, Chinese medicine drugs, testing and certification, and healthcare, as well as experts, academics and lay persons with rich experience in business management and public administration. The appointments will take effect from March 1, 2019, to February 28, 2021, for a term of two years. The Hong Kong Productivity Council will be serving as the secretariat.

Membership of the Committee is as follows:

Chairperson

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Mr Douglas So Cheung-tak

Members

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Professor Bian Zhaoxiang  
Dr Chan Kei-wai  
Mr Chan Wing-suen  
Ms Anne Chuah Ah-poh  
Dr Feng Yibin  
Miss Lam Pui-yan  
Ms Serena Lau Sze-wan  
Mr Lee Kaiping  
Dr Liong Ching  
Mr Gerry Ma Kwai-yung  
Dr Or Ka-hang  
Ms Wang Huimin  
Mr Wong Ka-on  
Professor Justin Wu Che-yuen

Ex-officio Members

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Representative(s) from the Food and Health Bureau  
Representative(s) from the Department of Health  
Representative(s) from the Hospital Authority

Representative(s) from the Innovation and Technology Commission

The Government, together with the Committee, will work closely with the Chinese medicine practitioners and Chinese medicine drug sectors and relevant stakeholders to ensure the Fund effectively serves its purpose of promoting the development of Chinese medicine.

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## **Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme invites new round of applications**

The Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme (PASS) is inviting a new round of applications today (March 1) from non-profit-distributing organisations such as professional bodies, trade or industrial organisations and research institutes.

The PASS, with a total allocation of \$200 million, aims at funding non-profit-making industry-led projects to increase exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong's professional services and external counterparts, promote relevant publicity activities, and enhance the standards and external competitiveness of Hong Kong's professional services.

The maximum grant under the PASS for each approved project is \$3 million or 90 per cent of the total eligible project cost, whichever is lower. A wide range of professional services is covered by the PASS, including accounting, legal, building and construction, healthcare, information and communications technology, design as well as technical testing and analysis. Sector-specific projects and cross-sectoral projects are both welcome.

So far, 38 projects have been funded under the PASS, including seminars, forums, workshops, exchange events, exhibitions, and research and studies. Costs directly incurred for implementing a project, such as manpower costs, venue and set up costs, production and promotion costs, and the project team's travel and accommodation costs outside Hong Kong, are typically eligible for funding under the scheme. More details about the PASS and the funded projects are available at [www.pass.gov.hk/en/home/index.html](http://www.pass.gov.hk/en/home/index.html).

The PASS receives applications all year round and they are processed on a quarterly basis. The deadline for the new round of applications is May 31, 2019.

A briefing session will be held on March 21, 2019 for organisations interested in applying for the PASS funding. For registration for the briefing session or other enquiries, please contact the PASS Secretariat at

## **Public invited to share the joy of reading at EDB's Joyful Reading Carnival this weekend**

The Joyful Reading Carnival organised by the Education Bureau (EDB) will be held tomorrow and on Sunday (March 2 and 3) at the Stars Atrium, 1/F, Plaza Hollywood, Diamond Hill, where members of the public, in particular kindergarten and primary school students, are welcome to participate and share the joy of reading in a diversified way.

Through the event, the EDB is bringing together the efforts of the community, business and education sectors and related stakeholders of non-governmental organisations, home-school co-operation parties, professional organisations and government departments to provide a variety of interesting and reading-related games and activities with an aim to encourage parent-child reading and create a fun-filled, enjoyable reading atmosphere.

The two-day Carnival will feature an array of reading-related activities on the stage and in booths, ranging from reading games and storytelling to school performances and meet-the-authors sessions. The venue will be turned into a reading hub with a reading zone in the centre and a display of books on themes such as "Chinese history and culture", "STEM education", "Healthy living", "Moral education" and "Nature and living". Members of the public will be able to share the joy of reading at ease.

There will also be a line-up of reading experts and authors, including the General Secretary of the Family Development Foundation, Ms Shirley Loo, and artist and writer Christine Cappio Cheung, to talk with the audience about their valuable reading experience and insights.

In addition, the event will showcase a newly produced series of celebrity videos on reading, featuring the Permanent Secretary for Education, Mrs Ingrid Yeung; the Mok Hing Yiu Professor of Medicine of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Professor Joseph Sung; Ms Loo, who is also a parent-child relationship and parenting educator; former President of the Legislative Council Mr Jasper Tsang; early childhood educator Ms Ponny Shum; the Chairman of the Committee on Home-School Co-operation, Mr Henry Tong; Hong Kong high jump team member Cecilia Yeung; and playwright Chong Mui-ngam. They will discuss aspects of their reading experience and recommend good books to arouse public interest in reading.

Some winning entries of the Joyful Reading Award Scheme will also be

screened to recognise students' and schools' achievements and efforts in promoting reading.

Members of the public are urged not to miss the chance to share the joy of reading this weekend. More details can be found at the EDB website ([www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/4-key-tasks/reading-to-learn/reading-activities/2019/Joyful-Reading-Carnival.html](http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/4-key-tasks/reading-to-learn/reading-activities/2019/Joyful-Reading-Carnival.html)).