

Human Resources Planning Commission convenes fifth meeting

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, chaired the fifth meeting of the Human Resources Planning Commission this afternoon (February 26).

At the meeting, the Commission discussed the revised proposal for setting up a new integrated portal on manpower information presented by the Secretariat of the Commission. Following up on Members' deliberations and comments at the last meeting, the Secretariat engaged a number of experienced information technology industry practitioners and refined the proposal in light of their advice.

Mr Cheung pointed out that there is currently a lack of career-related information channels for the working population in the market. Through interactive information and appropriate guidance on upskilling, career advancement and career development plans, the integrated portal on manpower information will help the working population to stay competitive, thereby enabling them to cope with the rapid changes brought about by technological advancement to the work environment.

The portal will be underpinned by an integrated database on jobs, skills and training information and supplemented by regularly updated theme-based content on trending topics about careers and the job market to attract patronage. The design of the portal will also cater for prevailing web-browsing habits and people's preferences, with a view to enhancing overall user experience. Based on Members' views, the Secretariat will continue to follow up on the development of the portal, which is expected to be launched by the end of this year.

Members also noted the key findings of the Report on Digital Economy and Talent Development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). The report was jointly published by the Center for Internet Development and Governance of the Tsinghua University School of Economics and Management and LinkedIn, and analyses the distribution and movement of high level and digital talents of different sectors in GBA cities based on LinkedIn's membership database.

The key findings illustrate that Hong Kong has advantages in terms of talents in finance, education and corporate services sectors, which could well complement the strengths of other cities in the GBA. In terms of talent mobility, the report acknowledges Hong Kong's attractiveness to overseas and Mainland talents. Members noted the key findings and said they believed that the GBA would bring about enormous development opportunities for talents in Hong Kong. They also shared views on how to better leverage Hong Kong's comparative strengths to contribute to the development of the GBA.

Mr Cheung added that the Central Government promulgated the GBA Outline

Development Plan last week (February 18). The focuses of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government's future work would include developing an international innovation and technology hub, expanding the scope of development for sectors in which Hong Kong's strengths lie, strengthening infrastructural connectivity, and fostering youth innovation and entrepreneurship. The Government would also launch a series of publicity efforts to help enterprises and members of the public, particularly young people, understand and take advantage of development opportunities brought about by the development of the GBA.

CHP investigates suspected cases of hepatotoxicity after consumption of sky fruit seeds and related products

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) is today (February 26) investigating 30 suspected cases of hepatotoxicity following the consumption of mahogany (commonly known as sky fruit) seeds or related products, and appealed to members of the public to be cautious of the potential risk of adverse effects on the liver from consumption.

Upon notification by the Hospital Authority (HA), the CHP immediately commenced epidemiological investigation which revealed that 30 cases have been recorded by the HA since 2014 involving a total of 15 men and 15 women aged 45 to 84. Among them, 24 consumed the raw seeds while the rest consumed related products in the form of capsules.

Some patients developed symptoms including jaundice, tea colour urine, abdominal pain/dyspepsia and dizziness/syncope from a few days to about a year after the consumption. However, some remained asymptomatic and were found to have deranged liver function test incidentally. All patients have been in a stable condition. They have either recovered or are recovering after stopping the consumption.

Seeds of sky fruit are traditionally used in Southeast Asian countries for treating various illnesses such as control of blood sugar and high blood pressure. According to available medical literature and information from overseas health authorities, some cases with adverse effects on the liver with varying severity of liver cell damage were reported after consumption of sky fruit seeds but the exact mechanism of the adverse effect is unknown.

"Although there is currently no scientific data on the direct risk of liver injury related to the intake of sky fruit seeds or related products, members of the public are urged to be aware of the potential risk of adverse effects on the liver from the consumption," a spokesman for the CHP said.

"The public is advised to exercise caution and consult their doctors before consuming sky fruit seeds or related products. Those who feel unwell after consumption should consult their doctors immediately, in particular if symptoms of liver injury such as nausea, loss of appetite, lethargy, tea colour urine, or yellow colour in the whites of the eyes or the skin are developed," the spokesman reminded.

Investigations by the CHP are still continuing.

The CHP will issue letters to doctors today to alert them of the potential risk of adverse effects on the liver in consuming sky fruit seeds or related products, and encourage them to inform the CHP of any similar case encountered during clinical consultation.

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[CS to visit Beijing](#)

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, will depart for Beijing tomorrow afternoon (February 27) to attend the press conference on the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to be held on February 28 at the State Council Information Office.

Mr Cheung will return to Hong Kong in the evening of the same day. During his absence, the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, will act as the Acting Chief Executive while the Secretary for the Environment, Mr Wong Kam-sing, will act as the Acting Chief Secretary for Administration.

[HK Film Archive's "Early Cinematic Treasures Rediscovered 4" to showcase archival gems \(with photos\)](#)

The Hong Kong Film Archive (HKFA) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will present the fourth instalment of the "Early Cinematic Treasures Rediscovered" series from March 23 to May 19 at the HKFA Cinema. Twenty-five rare archival titles of Hong Kong early productions will be

screened including six long-lost cinematic works, namely "The Goddess Helps the Bridge Builder" (1940), "Changing Hearts" (1943), "Cuckoo's Spirit in March" (1947), "Long Live the Wife" (1948), "Never Too Late to Meet" (1949) and "Fishermen's Song of the South Sea" (1950). Post-screening talks will be arranged for some of the screenings.

In the 1930s, filmmakers started to invite opera practitioners to perform onscreen after seeing the big box office success of "The White Gold Dragon" (1933), a Cantonese film (with sound) involving producer Runje Shaw and the then towering figure of Cantonese opera, Sit Kok-sin. Later, after the negative of "The White Gold Dragon" was destroyed in a fire, Shaw teamed up with Sit in the sequel "The White Gold Dragon, Part Two" (1937), enabling Sit to play the romantic and charming and rich heir Pak Kam-lung again and to excel in his signature artistry. "The Blood-stained Peach Blossom Fan" (1940) is the last and only existing work of the veteran scriptwriter and composer of Cantonese opera, Mak Siu-ha, and which also documents an invaluable scene of northern school sword dancing by Cheang Mang-ha. Another Cantonese opera master, Ma Si-tsang, used his operatic masterpiece's title for the film "Bitter Phoenix, Sorrowful Oriole" (1947), in which he flaunted his signature "beggar" singing style to perform an excerpt of the original play. "Cuckoo's Spirit in March" is an adaptation of the Cantonese opera written by popular playwright Lee Siu-wan. Though the version to be shown is incomplete, it captures an early yet moving performance on screen by Yu Lai-zhen. During the Second World War, the founder of the Grandview Film Company, Joseph Sunn Jue continued to make films in the US by collaborating with Cantonese opera practitioners who fled overseas during the war. Shot in California, "White Powder and Neon Lights" (1947) is the first 16mm colour Cantonese film to feature opera performer Wong Hok-sing, who is also the director and scriptwriter of the film.

Films based on folklore and ghost stories, which were popular in the 30s and 40s, demonstrated the unlimited possibilities of constructing an unimaginable fantasy world for audiences. "The Ghost Catcher" (1939) is a hybrid of old and new horror films from both West and East, and which uses special effects like freeze-frame and step-printing to create a spectacular visual adventure. Based on a folktale, "The Goddess Helps the Bridge Builder" was filmed with extraordinary special effects, including a hand-drawn two-plus-minute animation illustrating the bridge's construction. "The Birth of Kiddy Stone" (1949), which blends elements of martial arts, musicals and fantasy, features a lively performance by Cantonese opera prodigy Yu Kai, and was a box office hit.

Literary adaptation has been a staple of film creation, among which those works adapted from down-to-earth novels were particularly well-received by audience in the 30s and 40s. Starring Cheung Wood-yau and Lo Ming, "The Rich House" (1942) was adapted from Lui Lun's novel "Clara", and showcases Hong Kong's unique cosmopolitan blend of romance and westernisation. "The Evil Mind" (1947) depicts urban relationships and human degradation in a complicated plot derived from the novel by Ling Siu-sang. An adaptation of Yi Hung-sang's serialised novel published in Sing Pao, "The Crazy Matchmaker" (1948), features wanton relationships between men and women fueled by lust

and deception, uncovering the dark side of post-war society. Adapted from a popular novel by Mong Wan, "A Poor Lover's Tears" (1948) portrays Pak Yin as an unrestrained and materialistic woman.

During the war of resistance against Japanese aggression, Hong Kong filmmakers echoed aspects of "National Defence" campaign in the Mainland, producing patriotic films to show similar sentiments. Directed, scripted and acted in by Hou Yao, "Fortress of Flesh and Blood" (1938) depicts Hou's unwavering stance on resistance and also his disregard for cowardly behaviour. "Ten Thousand Li Ahead" (1941) is directed by Cai Chusheng, who co-founded the National Salvation Association of Cinema, and voices his decision to support his country. "Song of Retribution" (1941) describes in detail the Japanese soldiers' hatred of the war, transcending the "us versus them" duality commonly seen in national defence films. "Roar of the People" (1941) centres on the hardships endured by common people during wartime and is intercut with real footage from the war, increasing the anti-war sentiment of the film and imbuing it with genuine concern for the poor.

Largely influenced by Western ideologies and caught in a clash between old and new cultures, intellectuals in the 30s and 40s used cinema to vigorously expose injustices in society and reveal the ugliness of elites. The restored version of "Follow Your Dream" (1941) portrays a warm neighbourliness among refugees before the Japanese occupation and their quest to keep personal pride and courage intact, and is regarded as a leading Hong Kong left-wing film. Due to Hong Kong's geographical location and the prevalence of realism in post-war films, the industry saw a minor surge of fishing village films at this time. Shot on location, "Fishing Village in the War" (1948) and "Fishermen's Song of the South Sea" tell of life in fishing villages and the oppression faced by fishermen. The Nanguo Film Company's debut title, "Dawn Must Come" (1950), is a tragedy about farmers in Guangdong who are oppressed by treacherous and greedy landlords, touching the audience with a realist approach. "Old Memories of Canton" (1951) chronicles corruption in a government official's family in Guangzhou during the pre- and post-war period, through which director Lo Duen delivers an angry indictment against corrupt elites.

With feminism on the rise after the May Fourth Movement, filmmakers began to review the value of patriarchy in their works. "The Light of Women" (1937) follows a mother played by Lee Yi-nin who starts a new life with her daughter in the fight against gender oppression, while also reflecting on the lifelong battle for women to gain independence in a male-dominated society. "Changing Hearts" explores the institution of marriage and the power relationship between husband and wife in a light-hearted way, in which the female lead, Nancy Chan, seduces her husband in bed, suggesting the possibility of female domination. "Long Live the Wife" tells of a love triangle revolving around Pak Yin, Siu Yin Fei and Cheung Ying, which poses an acute challenge to male-centred social values and orthodox masculinity. "Never Too Late to Meet" centres on the issues raised by the system of concubinage in several families, effectively criticising the outdated concept of male privilege.

To complement the screenings, six seminars will be hosted by numerous film critics and researchers including Sam Ho, Lau Yam, Shu Kei, Dr Yau Ching, Dr Stephanie Ng, Law Kar, Lam Kee-to and Tsang Siu-wang. The seminars are entitled "The Art of Left-wing Cinema in Post-war Hong Kong" (March 30); "Sexuality and Gender in Early Cinema" (April 14); "Cantonese Opera Tangos with Movie" (April 20) ; "Fanfare and Controversy around Patriotic Films in the 1930s and 40s" (April 27); "The Adventure of Hong Kong Fantasy Film" (May 12) and "Between Money and Love: Adaptations of Early Hong Kong Novels" (May 18), which will be conducted at the Cinema of the HKFA in Cantonese with free admission.

"Ten Thousand Li Ahead" is in Mandarin and Cantonese, "Changing Hearts" and "Song of Retribution" are in Mandarin and all of the other films are in Cantonese. "The Rich House" and "Follow Your Dream" have Chinese and English subtitles; and the other films are without subtitles.

Tickets priced at \$45 are now available at URB TIX (www.urbtix.hk). For credit card telephone bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme details, please call 2739 2139 or visit www.filmarchive.gov.hk/en_US/web/hkfa/programmesandexhibitions/2019ect4/index.html.



