

[Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected smuggled frozen meat \(with photo\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (January 30) conducted an anti-smuggling operation and detected a suspected smuggling case using a fishing vessel in the waters off Waglan Island. About 200 000 kilograms of suspected smuggled frozen meat with an estimated market value of about \$5.7 million were seized.

Customs officers of the Marine Enforcement Group spotted a suspicious fishing vessel leaving Hong Kong at high speed yesterday afternoon. Officers then took immediate action and intercepted the fishing vessel for examination. The batch of suspected smuggled frozen meat was seized on board the vessel.

During the operation, Customs officers arrested two male crew members, aged 53 and 39.

Investigation is ongoing.

Smuggling is a serious offence. Under the Import and Export Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting unmanifested cargo is liable to a maximum fine of \$2 million and imprisonment for seven years.

Hong Kong Customs will continue to take stringent enforcement action to combat sea smuggling activities.

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).



Postal services to United States temporarily suspended

Hongkong Post announced today (January 31) that, as advised by the postal administration of the United States, due to the impact of extremely cold weather, the postal administration of the United States has suspended mail delivery services to some areas. Hongkong Post has suspended all postal services to the following postcode areas in the United States with immediate effect until further notice.

Michigan:	486XX–491XX, 493XX–499XX
Indiana:	460XX–469XX, 472XX–475XX, 478XX, 479XX
Chicago:	606XX–608XX
Lakeland:	530XX–532XX, 534XX, 535XX, 537XX–539XX, 541XX–545XX, 549XX, 600XX, 602XX, 601XX, 611XX
Detroit:	480XX–485XX, 492XX
Central Illinois:	601XX, 603XX–605XX, 609XX, 613XX, 614XX, 616XX, 617XX
Northern Ohio (Cleveland and Lima areas):	441XX, 458XX
Ohio Valley (Cincinnati and Columbus areas):	452XX, 430XX–432XX
Northland:	540XX, 546XX–548XX, 550XX, 551XX, 553XX–564XX, 566XX
Hawkeye:	500XX–514XX, 520XX–528XX, 612XX
Dakotas:	580XX–588XX, 570XX–577XX
Eastern Nebraska:	680XX–689XX

Update on cluster of Influenza A cases in Castle Peak Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding an earlier announcement on a cluster of patients infected with Influenza A in a female psychogeriatric ward, the spokesperson for Castle

Peak Hospital gave the following update today (January 31):

Two more patients (aged 76 and 77) in the ward presented with respiratory symptoms. Appropriate viral tests were arranged for the patients and their test results were positive for Influenza A. The patients concerned are being treated under isolation with stable condition.

Admission to the ward has been suspended and a restricted visiting arrangement has been imposed. Infection control measures have already been stepped up according to established guidelines. All other patients in the ward are under close surveillance.

The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.

EPD and ECC extend Green LNY Fair to all LNY fair venues across the territory

The Secretary for the Environment, Mr Wong Kam-sing, and the Chairman of the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC), Professor Joseph Sung, today (January 31) visited the Green Lunar New Year (LNY) Fair at Fa Hui Park on Boundary Street with members of the ECC and its Publicity Working Group. They called on stall operators and members of the public to support green initiatives by cherishing resources and reducing waste during festive celebrations.

The Fa Hui Park Green LNY Fair is jointly being held by the ECC, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the Conservancy Association. A publicity and educational corner has been set up to promote green messages for the LNY and distribute reusable red packets. Green shopping bag sharing stands have also been set up in the fair for members of the public to donate or pick up reusable shopping bags so as to reduce the use of disposable plastic bags. Green Ambassadors are deployed on-site to coach the public and stall operators on how to practise proper waste separation and clean recycling. A number of stall operators have already signed the "green stall pledge" to show their commitment to implementing green measures, including waste reduction at source, recycling and resource sharing. Reusable tableware lending services are also available at the fair to encourage members of the public to go plastic-and-disposable-free, and reduce the use of disposable tableware.

In addition to Fa Hui Park, the ECC and the EPD have also extended the Green LNY Fair programmes to all LNY fair venues across the territory. Apart from waste paper, plastic and metal, a number of new recyclable items have

been added in this year's LNY fairs including food waste, yard waste and polyfoam. These items will be collected and recycled by contractors appointed by the EPD. A resource-sharing station has also been set up to collect unsold goods and leftover materials (such as canvas, tents, tables and chairs, shelves, sandbags and new year decorations) from stall operators for on-site distribution or redistribution to others after the LNY fairs. Bamboo sticks and wooden pallets generated by fair stalls will also be properly collected for recycling or delivered to collaborating NGOs for upcycling programmes. The ECC and EPD hope that the above measures will reduce the amount of waste generated by LNY fairs through a multi-pronged approach.

Mr Wong said that by setting up sharing platforms and a well-established recycling network, the Green LNY Fairs will publicise the message of waste reduction and reuse, and it is hoped that the concept of Green New Year will penetrate into every corner of the community. He also reminded and encouraged members of the public to bring "green to-go items" (namely water bottle, food container, reusable cutlery, handkerchief and reusable shopping bag) when visiting the LNY fairs to avoid using disposable items and reduce waste at source. He also urged the public to practise clean recycling for better recovery of resources.

Professor Sung said he hopes that stall operators and the general public will support the Green LNY Fairs by avoiding the production of unnecessary waste and building up a culture of waste reduction. He added that he would also like the ECC to inspire other event organisers to incorporate more green elements in their events to further promote waste reduction and help build a greener Hong Kong together.

Speech by CE at Signing Ceremony for Transdisciplinary Medical Robotics Research Partnerships between CUHK and overseas institutes (English only) (with photos/video)

Following is the speech by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at the Signing Ceremony for Transdisciplinary Medical Robotics Research Partnerships between the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and overseas institutes today (January 31):

Professor Tuan (Vice-Chancellor and President of the CUHK, Professor Rocky Tuan), Professor Yang (Director of the Hamlyn Centre for Robotic Surgery, Imperial College London, Professor Yang Guangzhong), Professor Nelson

(Director of Multi-Scale Robotics Lab of ETH Zurich, Professor Bradley Nelson), Dr Nagahara (Associate Dean of Research of Whiting School of Engineering, Johns Hopkins University, Dr Larry Nagahara), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. It's a pleasure to be here today for the signing of an agreement to establish a Multi-Scale Medical Robotics Centre at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. And I'm delighted to welcome the Chinese University's eminent partners in the new Centre, both in my capacity as the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and as the Chancellor of this University. These three eminent partners are:

- ETH Zurich's Multi-Scale Robotics Lab within the Institute of Robotics and Intelligent Systems;
- Imperial College London's Hamlyn Centre for Robotic Surgery; and
- Johns Hopkins University's Laboratory for Computational Sensing and Robotics.

I just noticed that I seem to have a little bit of association with each of these three overseas partners. Last week, on my way to the World Economic Forum at Davos, I called on the Mayor of Zurich, Ms Corine Mauch, to renew our friendship and explore new opportunities for collaboration between Zurich and Hong Kong, and technology was one of our agreed priorities. Today we are welcoming ETH Zurich to Hong Kong. Then I had first-hand knowledge of the work of Imperial College London's Hamlyn Centre, which I visited during my first official trip to London in September 2017 in my capacity as the Chief Executive, and since then we have maintained close contacts with Professor Yang. I also met with President Ron Daniels of Johns Hopkins University when he was in Hong Kong last year. I am therefore extremely pleased that my visits and meetings with renowned institutions all bear fruit within a short period of time.

But I am certainly not suggesting that they are charmed by me to come to Hong Kong. Instead, I believe they find in Hong Kong the appeal of excellent research capability, strong fundamentals including the rule of law, IP protection, proximity to manufacturing powerhouses like Shenzhen and supportive government policies. Indeed, Hong Kong has long enabled connections between East and West, and long attracted people, companies and institutions, bringing them together to excel, whatever their aspirations are.

In terms of supportive government policies, since becoming Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region about 18 months ago, I have committed US\$10 billion towards a broad spectrum of I&T initiatives. That includes specifically US\$1.3 billion earmarked for the creation of two major research clusters in the Hong Kong Science Park. One is focused on healthcare technology, the other on robotics and artificial intelligence. I'm pleased to know that the Multi-Scale Medical Robotics Centre has already applied for admission to the latter – AIR@InnoHK Cluster.

My Government, let me add, has also introduced enhanced tax deductions up to 300 per cent for R&D expenditure incurred by private enterprises. In addition, we have launched programmes supporting R&D institutions that wish to add technology talent to their operations. In this connection, I know the new Centre is as committed as we are to talent development, with training to be provided to surgeons, engineers and others keen to gain expertise in robotics technology.

Today's global alliance, made up of the three international institutions and the Chinese University, are all pioneers in medical robotics. The Chinese University of Hong Kong is the first post-secondary institution in Asia to establish a robotic surgery training centre. To date, more than 1 300 robotic console surgeons from Asia have been trained here. Recently, the Chinese University completed the world's first multi-disciplinary clinical trial of the advanced, single-port robotic surgical system.

With the coming together of these four prestigious universities, and their world-class robotics expertise, there is much to look forward to. I'm confident the Centre's research will advance the diagnosis and treatment of multiple medical specialties. And I'm gratified to know that its research will be multidisciplinary, involving medical researchers, physicians, engineers and other specialists focused on developing robotics for innovative medical applications.

I wish the four universities and everyone involved great success in this far-reaching collaboration. With Chinese New Year only a few days away, let me wish you, as well, a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Thank you very much.



