

Updates to merchant shipping law on prevention and control of pollution proposed

The Government proposes to amend the Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Dangerous Goods and Marine Pollutants) Regulation to implement the latest requirements of the International Maritime Organization in relation to the carriage of dangerous goods and marine pollutants.

The proposed amendment seeks to incorporate the relevant requirements of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships into local legislation.

A spokesman for the Transport and Housing Bureau today (December 7) said, "Major amendments involve the classification of dangerous substances, identification of harmful substances, carriage of lithium batteries and the use of proper shipping names for dangerous goods in shipment."

The Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development and the Shipping Consultative Committee of the Marine Department have been consulted.

The proposed legislative amendment was gazetted today and will be tabled at the Legislative Council on December 12 for negative vetting.

Government to resume land for construction of two primary schools in Fanling

The Government will resume two private agricultural lots with a total area of about 542.8 square metres at Queen's Hill, Fanling, for the construction of two primary schools.

A notice for the land resumption was published in the [Gazette](#) today (December 7).

The construction works are scheduled to commence in the second quarter of 2019 for completion in the third quarter of 2021. The two schools are expected to commence operation in the 2021/22 school year.

Lecture Series to reveal diversification of Silk Road culture

The "Silk Road Lecture Series", in which local art experts will be invited to speak about the diversification of Silk Road culture, will be held in January. The series is presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

Details of each lecture are as follows:

Topic: The Central Asian Style of Uyghur Music and its Resonance along the Silk Road

Date: January 9 (Wednesday)

Speaker: Dr Wong Chuen-fung

Content: This talk looks at the continuities between Uyghur music and other Turkic, Persian, and Arab traditions in Central Asia and the broader Middle East. It will be complemented by a performance demonstration of traditional instruments like the tembur, dutar, satar and rawap by members of Project Puraq and the Nur Collective, and will explore compositions and improvisations around the maqom category of rost-panjigah found across the Eurasian Silk Road.

Topic: Presenting Dunhuang on Stage

Date: January 16 (Wednesday)

Speaker: Enid Chung

Content: The dance drama spectacular "Silk Road, Flower Rain" premiered in 1979. Using Dunhuang dance as the theme, it attracted widespread attention and discussion after its debut. Since then, initiatives like the Dunhuang dance style, Dunhuang College, and Dunhuang Research Academy have been established. The year 2019 marks the 40th anniversary of the start of research into and creation of the Dunhuang dance. Through dance works like "Silk Road, Flower Rain", "Dunhuang Dream", "Apsaras", "The Thousand-hand Bodhisattva" and related literature, this presentation will attempt to explore and examine the inheritance and evolution of the style of Dunhuang dance over the last 40 years.

Topic: Dunhuang Grottoes and Atmospheric Music Theatre

Date: January 23 (Wednesday)

Speaker: Professor Law Wing-fai and Wong Chi-ching

Moderator: Dr Cheung Pui-shan

Content: The Dunhuang Grottoes represent an intrinsic time and intrinsic space, where Oriental religious views and ethereal feelings permeate. They evoke a mythical, poetic outlook from artistic creators in their quest for novel imagery. The inspiration for the atmospheric musical theatre which Professor Law has advocated for many years came from Dunhuang, which opened his eyes to the meaning of "creation". The stage setting is like a mystic

space, or a series of frescos that slowly open up like a scroll. The cohesive, profound atmosphere of the theatre is like a ritual of life in the grottoes. It permeates the soul and inspires contemplation and meditation.

Topic: Dunhuang Dance – Ancient and Modern

Date: January 30 (Wednesday)

Speaker: Felix Chen Lei

Content: As vivid representations of the music-and-dance culture of ancient China, the Dunhuang frescoes and sculptures have often been described as "the confluence of a hundred sources, magnificent in breadth and depth". The "fusion and reciprocity" of the humanistic characteristics of different ethnic groups and the aesthetic features over the centuries have forged the creation of unique Dunhuang art that is both timeless and influential. This lecture focuses on the fusion and reciprocity characteristics of Dunhuang art and culture. The speaker will share his interpretation of the iconic physical movements of Dunhuang dance from a professional choreographer's perspective. There will also be a guided appreciation of classical dance and award-winning works. By reconstructing the rhythmic movements of 2D images and with creative imagination, stillness becomes motion, and figures on the walls will seem to come alive and dance.

All lectures will be held at 7.30pm at the Lecture Hall, Hong Kong Space Museum. Tickets priced at \$50 for each session are now available URB TIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7323 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/dance/programs_696.html.

[Vacancy in Yau Tsim Mong District Council](#)

The Government declared by notice in the Gazette today (December 7) the vacancy of an elected seat in the Yau Tsim Mong District Council (Tai Nan Constituency).

The office was held by the late Mr Chong Wing-chaun, Francis, an elected member who passed away on November 21, 2018. Pursuant to section 26(a) of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547), the office has become vacant.

The Registration and Electoral Office will arrange for a by-election.

Appointments to Appeal Board on Public Meetings and Processions

The Government announced today (December 7) the re-appointment of Ms Betty Chan Ka-wai as Deputy Chairman and Mr Johnny Lau Tze-ming as Member of the Appeal Board on Public Meetings and Processions, made by the Chief Executive under Section 43(3) of the Public Order Ordinance (Cap 245). The above appointments will be effective from December 22 this year for a term of two years and were gazetted today.

The Appeal Board on Public Meetings and Processions comprises a Chairman, two Deputy Chairmen and 13 Members, none of whom are public officers. The Appeal Board is responsible for considering appeals against the decision of the Commissioner of Police to prohibit a public meeting, object to a public procession or impose or amend conditions on a public meeting or public procession under Sections 9, 14, 11 or 15 of the Public Order Ordinance respectively. The Appeal Board is empowered to confirm, reverse or vary the decision being appealed against.