[Speech by S for IT at opening ceremony of Smart Airport – Technovation Conference and Exhibition 2018 (English only)](#)

Following is the speech by the Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Mr Nicholas W Yang, at the opening ceremony of Smart Airport – Technovation Conference and Exhibition 2018 today (November 28):

Jack (Chairman of the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AA), Mr Jack So), Fred (Chief Executive Officer of the AA, Mr Fred Lam), distinguished guests, friends, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. I am extremely delighted to join you all here today at the Technovation Conference and Exhibition 2018. First, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our prestigious guests, speakers, industry practitioners and exhibitors from around the world who form the core of the event today.

In fact, this is my second time joining the opening of this annual event of the Airport Authority Hong Kong. Since the setting up of the Innovation and Technology Bureau in November 2015, I attended the Technovation Conference in 2016 and my Permanent Secretary attended in 2017. The Innovation and Technology Bureau is a staunch supporter of the Technovation Conference not only because it echoes our work to make Hong Kong a smarter city, the conference also helps to build a more vibrant ecosystem for Hong Kong talents to shine and thrive further with our robust fundamentals in city management.

In 2018, the Hong Kong International Airport was voted and ranked among the top five of the world's Best 100 Airports. Our Hong Kong airport is also one of the busiest airports, serving over 120 airlines and operating flights to over 220 global destinations. Our air cargo throughput continues to be number one in the world, reaching over 5 million tonnes in 2017.

Embracing innovation and technology is critical to improving the passenger experience and operational efficiency for airports. As I mentioned before, our airport has been consistently ranked top globally. I would say we did it because Airport Authority Hong Kong recognises the importance of the changes brought by digital transformation, and proactively upgrades itself using cutting edge technologies.

To enhance user experience, the Airport Authority Hong Kong has developed its official mobile app "HKG My Flight", which provides passengers with personalised information including real-time flight information and boarding alerts. With iBeacon technology providing data about walking routes, passenger location and flow, together with augmented reality technology, international users can navigate within the terminals of our airport easily.

"MyTAG", which notifies passengers when their luggage arrives at the baggage claim carousel, helps reduce stress for travellers when waiting to collect their luggage.

Furthermore, Airport Authority Hong Kong has collaborated with our publicly funded R&D centres such as the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute and Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre to adopt innovative home-grown technologies in its operation. Using IoT technology, Real-time Trolley Supply Monitoring System has been deployed for maintaining steady supply of trolleys. This system won a gold medal at the 2018 International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva. Barcode Radio-frequency Identification (RFID) scanner that allows passengers to print luggage tags at home and then check-in luggage themselves has already been widely adopted by 31 airlines. RFID and video analytics are also adopted in baggage sorting and reconciliation to improve operational efficiency.

The Airport Authority Hong Kong also partners with local technology start-ups and puts innovative proposals for trials. These include driverless tractor, queuing sensors, and the use of facial recognition for check-in, boarding pass checkpoints and boarding control. During my visit to the Hong Kong International Airport last December, I saw how high-speed imaging technology, coupled with big data analytics, is applied for precise and efficient inspection of airfield ground lighting. This award-winning system is developed by a local technology company at Hong Kong Science Park. Through collaboration with local R&D institutions and technology start-ups, the Hong Kong International Airport can continue to outperform its counterparts in other cities.

Ladies and gentlemen, the HKSAR Government will continue to strengthen our support to R&D for developing more innovative projects which can make our airport and other public facilities smarter. We need the concerted efforts of the Government, industry, academia and research sectors to build a smarter city together. I would like to take this opportunity to ask for your support to join hands with the Government in promoting innovation, technology and smart city development in Hong Kong.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the Airport Authority Hong Kong for being at the forefront of adopting innovative technologies and contributing to the smart city development of Hong Kong.

I wish the conference and exhibition a great and most enjoyable success. Thank you very much.

LCQ16: Regulation of e-sports venues

Following is a question by the Hon Charles Mok and a written reply by the Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Mr Nicholas W Yang, in the

Legislative Council today (November 28):

Question:

	In February this year, the Financial Secretary indicated that the Government would allocate additional resources to support the development of the e-sports industry. It is learnt that the e-sports sector has a keen demand for training spaces and event venues (collectively known as e-sports venues). Some members of the e-sports sector have pointed out that the existing laws that are related to e-sports venues include the Amusement Game Centres Ordinance (Cap. 435) and the Places of Public Entertainment Ordinance (Cap. 172). They consider that some of the provisions under Cap. 435 (which was enacted in as early as 1993) are outdated, and such provisions, when applied to regulate e-sports venues, are too stringent and not conducive to the development of the e-sports industry. They have further pointed out that the Government has neither set up a licensing system specifically for e-sports venues, nor clarified whether e-sports venues are required to be issued with licenses issued under the aforesaid ordinances, thus hindering the development of the e-sports industry. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) of the respective numbers of applications for a licence for amusement game centre received, approved and rejected by the authorities in the past three years;

(2) whether it will draw reference from the experience of regulating Internet centres (commonly known as "cyber cafes") and formulate a Code of Practice for E-Sports Venues Operators for voluntary compliance by the operators, and then gradually bring e-sports venues within the ambit of Cap. 435 by express provisions; if so, of the timetable; if not, the reasons for that;

(3) whether the government departments concerned will enhance their communication with the e-sports sector regarding the licensing issues under Cap. 435 and conduct public consultation, with a view to examining the formulation of a set of guidelines on applying for a licence for e-sports venues, thereby enhancing the fire and structural safety standards of e-sports venues and alleviating their impacts on residents in the neighbourhood; if so, of the timetable; if not, the reasons for that; and

(4) given the advancement in technology and changes in social conditions, whether the authorities will conduct a comprehensive review of Cap. 435 and Cap. 172, and enact provisions (including the licensing conditions) for regulating entertainment facilities involving the use of new technologies (e.g. virtual reality gears)?

Reply:

President,

	With regard to the four-part question, having consulted the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), our reply is as follows:

(1) In the past three years (2015 to 2017), the Office of the Licensing Authority under the Home Affairs Department received a total of 25 applications for Amusement Game Centre Licence. Among these applications, 11 were withdrawn by the applicants, nine were approved, four were rejected and one is still under processing as the applicant has not completed the required improvement works.

(2) and (3) E-sports is a relatively new industry. Unlike Internet Computer Services Centres which charge a fee for the primary service of providing computers and relevant facilities for customers to access the Internet, e-sports venues operate in various modes and cover an array of different activities. In addition, the operation of e-sports venues and hosting of competitions involve different licences to ensure safety of the persons participating in e-sports competitions and activities. To give operators a better understanding of the scope and requirements of the relevant licences (such as the requirements on fire safety, structural safety, number of participants and hygiene etc), the Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) is in conjunction with the HAB and related government departments formulating a set of guidelines for e-sports venues to help operators understand and apply for the required licences. We plan to issue the guidelines in the first quarter of 2019. In finalising these guidelines, we will consult relevant stakeholders.

(4) The Amusement Game Centres Ordinance (Cap. 435) (AGCO) aims to regulate the operation of amusement game centres to ensure these centres are operated properly in order to protect the well-being of customers and to minimise their impact on nearby residents. The Places of Public Entertainment Ordinance (Cap. 172) (PPEO) serves the primary purpose of ensuring public safety and order at places of entertainment where members of the public congregate. Whether the operation of places with entertainment facilities installed requires a licence under the AGCO or the PPEO depends on various factors, including the purpose of operating the facilities, the types of the concerned activities and the operation mode of venues, etc.

　　As for whether it is necessary to amend the regulations relating to public safety and order stipulated in the above Ordinances to tie in with the Government's policies to promote the development of emerging technologies and industries, the ITB will maintain communication with the HAB and follow up as appropriate.

Reports of the Director of Audit

　　The Report of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the year ended March 31, 2018 and Report No. 71 of the Director of Audit on the results of value for money

audits were tabled in the Legislative Council this morning (November 28).

     The Report on the Government Accounts provides an overall assurance that the financial statements properly present the assets and liabilities of the Government as at March 31, 2018 and the receipts and payments for the year that ended on that date.

     Value for money audit is an examination into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which any bureau of the Government Secretariat, department, agency or other public body has discharged its functions. Report No. 71 of the Director of Audit covers a variety of subjects on the administration of government programmes and provision of public services.

     Report No. 71 comprises the following 10 chapters:

Chapter	Subject
1	Centre for Food Safety: Management of food safety
2	Centre for Food Safety: Import control of foods
3	Procurement of operational equipment by the Hong Kong Police Force
4	Management of signboards by the Buildings Department
5	Radio Television Hong Kong: Provision of programmes
6	Barrier-free facilities at government premises
7	Education Bureau's efforts in harnessing information technology to facilitate learning and teaching
8	Trade and Industry Department's work in supporting small and medium enterprises
9	Training and development work of the Civil Service Training and Development Institute
10	Hong Kong Velodrome and Hong Kong Velodrome Park

     The Report of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Government for the year ended March 31, 2018 and Report No. 71 on the results of value

for money audits are available on the Audit Commission's website at www.aud.gov.hk.

[Special traffic arrangements for race meeting in Happy Valley](#)

Special traffic arrangements will be implemented in Happy Valley today (November 28). The arrangements will come into effect one and a half hours before the start of the first race and will last until the crowds have dispersed after the race meeting.

A. Traffic arrangements before the commencement of the first race

1. Road closure

Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Queen's Road East and the up-ramp outside Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) will be closed except for vehicles heading for Aberdeen Tunnel.

2. Traffic diversions

— Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Village Road and the up-ramp outside HKJC will be re-routed one way northbound;
— Vehicles from eastbound Queen's Road East heading for Wan Chai and Happy Valley will be diverted to turn left to Morrison Hill Road;
— Traffic along southbound Morrison Hill Road heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via Sports Road and Wong Nai Chung Road;
— Traffic along Queen's Road East cannot turn right to Wong Nai Chung Road except for vehicles heading to Aberdeen Tunnel;
— Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Queen's Road East will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Morrison Hill Road to turn right at the junction of Wong Nai Chung Road and Queen's Road East; and
— Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Happy Valley or Racecourse will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Canal Road East, southbound Morrison Hill Road, Sports Road and Wong Nai Chung Road.

B. Traffic arrangements before the conclusion of race meeting

1. Road closure

The following roads will be closed from 35 minutes before the start of the last race:

— The up-ramp on Wong Nai Chung Road outside HKJC leading to Aberdeen Tunnel;

– Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Queen's Road East and the up-ramp leading to Aberdeen Tunnel;
– Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Village Road and the Public Stands of HKJC;
– Westbound Leighton Road between Wong Nai Chung Road and Canal Road East; and
– Southbound Morrison Hill Road between Leighton Road and Queen's Road East.

In addition, southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between the up-ramp leading to Aberdeen Tunnel and the Public Stands of HKJC will be closed from about 10 minutes before the start of the last race.

2. Traffic diversions

The following traffic arrangements will be implemented from 35 minutes before the start of the last race:

– Eastbound Queen's Road East at its junction with Morrison Hill Road will be reduced to one-lane traffic heading for northbound Canal Road flyover;
– Vehicles from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Wan Chai will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from Canal Road East, U-turn slip road beneath Canal Road flyover, Canal Road West and Hennessy Road;
– Vehicles from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from Canal Road East, eastbound Leighton Road and Wong Nai Chung Road;
– Traffic on southbound Morrison Hill Road will be diverted to turn left to eastbound Leighton Road;
– Traffic along southbound Morrison Hill Road heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via eastbound Leighton Road and Wong Nai Chung Road; and
– Traffic along westbound Leighton Road will be diverted to Wong Nai Chung Road.

C. Learner drivers prohibition

Learner drivers will be prohibited to turn left from Caroline Hill Road to Leighton Road between one and a half hours before the start of the first race and one hour after the last race. In addition, learner drivers will be prohibited from accessing the following roads within the above period of time:

– Shan Kwong Road between Yik Yam Street and Wong Nai Chung Road;
– Village Road between its upper and lower junctions with Shan Kwong Road;
– Percival Street between Hennessy Road and Leighton Road;
– Canal Road East; and
– The service road leading from Gloucester Road to Canal Road flyover.

D. Suspension of parking spaces

Parking spaces on southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Sports Road and Blue Pool Road will be suspended from 11am to 7pm during day racing, from 4.30pm to 11.59pm during evening racing, and from 5pm to 11.59pm during night racing.

Any vehicles found illegally parked within the precincts of the above affected areas will be towed away without prior notice.

Actual implementation of road closure and traffic diversion will be made by the Police at the time depending on traffic conditions in the areas. Motorists should exercise tolerance and patience, and follow the instructions of Police on site.

[Red flag hoisted at Silverstrand Beach](#)

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (November 28) that due to big waves, the red flag has been hoisted at Silverstrand Beach in Sai Kung District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.