

Two illegal workers jailed

Two illegal workers comprising a Vietnamese and an Indian were jailed by Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday (November 5).

Immigration Department (ImmD) investigators received referrals from the Police to further investigate two illegal employment cases in September. A male Vietnamese illegal worker and a male Indian illegal worker, aged 31 and 44, were arrested at a recycling depot in Tin Shui Wai and a wet market in Kwun Tong respectively. When intercepted they were working as odd-job workers. Upon identity checking, they produced for inspection recognisance forms issued by the ImmD, which prohibit them from taking employment. Further investigation revealed that they were non-refoulement claimants. An employer suspected of employing an illegal worker was arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

The two illegal workers were charged at Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday with taking employment after landing in Hong Kong unlawfully and remaining in Hong Kong without the authority of the Director of Immigration or while being a person in respect of whom a removal order or deportation order was in force. They pleaded guilty to the charges and they were sentenced to imprisonment ranging from 15 months to 15 months and two weeks.

The ImmD spokesman warned that, as stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, illegal immigrants or people who are the subject of a removal order or a deportation order are prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining in any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. The Court of Appeal has issued a guideline ruling that a sentence of 15 months' imprisonment should be applied in such cases.

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for three years and a fine of \$350,000. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence. According to the court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card. The maximum penalty for failing to inspect such a document is imprisonment for one year and a fine of \$150,000.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure,

conduct initial screening on vulnerable persons, including illegal workers, illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers, who are arrested during any operation, with a view to ascertaining whether they are trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threat and coercion in the recruitment phase and the nature of exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various forms of support and assistance, including urgent interference, medical services, counselling, shelter, temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments.

Import of poultry meat and products from Stearns County, Minnesota, US, suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (November 6) that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) about an outbreak of low-pathogenic H5N2 avian influenza in Stearns County, Minnesota, the United States (US), the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products, including poultry eggs, from the county with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that Hong Kong imported about 206 000 tonnes of frozen poultry meat and 390 million poultry eggs from the US in the first nine months of this year.

"The CFS has contacted the US authorities over the issue and will closely monitor information issued by the OIE on avian influenza outbreaks. Appropriate action will be taken in response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.

Two fruit retailers convicted of supplying and possessing for sale

fruits with false trade descriptions

Two fruit retailers were fined \$3,600 and \$6,000 today (November 6) at Shatin Magistrates' Courts and West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts respectively for supplying and possessing for sale golden peaches with a false trade description, in contravention of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (TDO).

Hong Kong Customs earlier received information alleging that golden peaches with a suspected false claim of origin were being sold at some fruit retailers.

Customs officers conducted a test-buy operation and seized a total of 72 golden peaches with a suspected false claim of origin from Japan from two fruit retailers in Ma On Shan and Mong Kok.

After investigation, it was revealed that the golden peaches originated from the Mainland, different from what had been declared.

Customs reminds traders to comply with the requirements of the TDO and consumers to procure goods from reputable shops.

Under the TDO, any person who supplies goods with a false trade description in the course of trade or business, or is in possession of any goods for sale with a false trade description, commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for five years.

Members of the public may report any suspected violation of the TDO to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).

Speech by S for IT at Hong Kong International Computer Conference 2018 (English only) (with photo)

Following is the speech by the Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Mr Nicholas W Yang, at the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong International Computer Conference (HKICC) 2018 today (November 6):

Ted (President of the Hong Kong Computer Society, Mr Ted Suen), Mr Chen Dong (Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Mr Chen Dong), Rocky (Chairperson of the Organising Committee of the HKICC 2018, Mr Rocky

Cheng), Andy (Chairperson of the Programme Committee of the HKICC 2018, Dr Andy Chun), distinguished guests, friends, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. I am most delighted to join you today at the Hong Kong Computer Society's flagship annual event – the Hong Kong International Computer Conference 2018.

Indeed, I take great pleasure in attending this annual event. Not only can I connect with friends of the ICT industry, it is also a timely occasion for me to share with you Hong Kong's latest developments in innovation and technology (I&T), the timing of which often ties in with the Chief Executive's annual Policy Address.

Last month, the Chief Executive delivered her second Policy Address announcing further initiatives on I&T in addition to the eight major areas set out in her 2017 Policy Address. Thanks to the concerted efforts of various parties inside and outside the Government, we are making good progress in these areas. To keep up with the momentum, we are pressing ahead with new measures as well as additional investment to propel I&T development in Hong Kong. I would like to highlight some which should be of interest to all of you.

As you may know, the Government is devoting its efforts in delivering over 70 smart city initiatives in the six areas committed in the Smart City Blueprint released last December. One area is to accelerate Smart Government. We will spare no effort to enhance the Government's own capability in adopting new technologies in our services.

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) will set up a Smart Government Innovation Lab in April next year. Through this lab, local start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will be invited to put forward proposals on I&T applications and product suggestions for use in public services. We aim to bring in local innovation to help government departments address various new and persistent city challenges such as municipal and environmental problems, crowd control, cargo clearance and other urban issues. Trials and technology testing will be conducted jointly with relevant government departments. Innovative measures could be formulated more effectively to improve the delivery of public services. This will also create more business opportunities for local start-ups and SMEs. It will be a team effort by the Hong Kong people and the Government.

In addition, we will allocate \$500 million for organising an annual City I&T Grand Challenge in the next five years to promote the use of I&T in addressing livelihood issues. I welcome all of you to participate and contribute to identifying I&T solutions to help tackle issues closely related to the public's daily living.

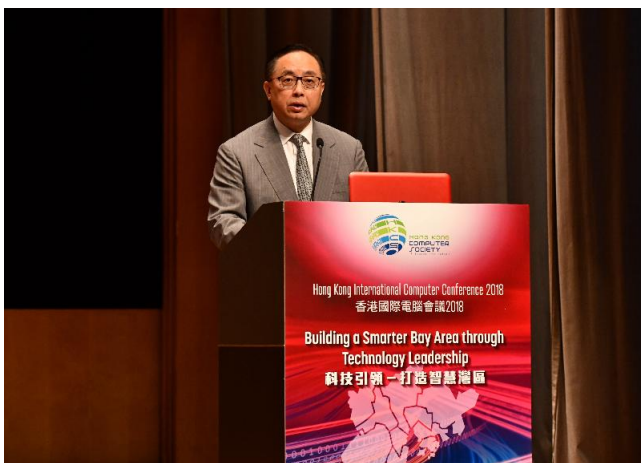
Last year, we rolled out the \$500 million TechConnect (Block Vote) to support government departments in planning and implementing technology projects to enhance operational efficiency and improve public services. We have supported over 40 projects, 24 of which have already commenced. These

projects involve different technologies, for example artificial intelligence, Internet of Things and big data. As announced in the Policy Address this year, another \$500 million will be allocated to the TechConnect to continue to drive the adoption of technology by government departments.

The above are just some of the latest measures we have put forward to enhance public service delivery and facilitate the development of the local I&T industry. I encourage players and leaders in the industry to take these opportunities and work together with the Government. Let's work together to make our local innovation shine in our public sector.

Today's theme "Building a Smarter Bay Area through Technology Leadership" certainly reflects the challenges as well as opportunities ahead for Hong Kong. The Government has been actively participating in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development and our vision is to develop the Bay Area into an international I&T hub. I believe the distinguished speakers of this conference will share with us more insights on this topic. As the saying goes, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much". Through our joint efforts, I am confident that we can bring Hong Kong onto the next level of prosperity and success.

Last but not least, I would like to congratulate the Hong Kong Computer Society on organising yet another successful ICC. I wish you all a fruitful and rewarding exchange and experience at the conference. Thank you.



[Missing man in Sham Shui Po located](#)

A man who went missing in Sham Shui Po was located.

Chan Kin-fung, aged 20, went missing after he was last seen in Fu Cheong Estate, Sham Shui Po on November 3 afternoon. His family made a report to Police on the same day.

The man was located on Wu Sau Street in Castle Peak last night (November

5). He sustained no injuries and no suspicious circumstances were detected.