

Fraudulent website related to Dah Sing Bank, Limited

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by Dah Sing Bank, Limited on fraudulent website, which has been reported to the HKMA. Hyperlink to the press release is available on [the HKMA website](#) for ease of reference by members of the public.

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information to the website concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the website should contact the bank concerned using the contact information provided in the press release, and report to the Police or contact the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

Joint operation combats illegal handling of hazardous electronic waste by recycling sites in North District and Yuen Long (with photos)

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) conducted an inter-departmental enforcement operation on October 12 and detected the illegal handling of hazardous electronic waste (e-waste) by a recycling site at Ping Shan in Yuen Long. The department is still investigating the persons involved and collecting evidence and prosecution will be instigated soon.

An EPD spokesman today (October 15) said that the department's enforcement officers conducted a joint operation with the Fire Services Department (FSD) and Lands Department (LandsD) on October 12. The operation, entitled "Operation Jasmine", aimed at conducting surprise inspections at open waste recycling yards in North District and Yuen Long in the New Territories to check whether their operations complied with the land lease conditions or legal requirements on pollution control, fire safety and land use.

During the operation, the EPD found that an open waste recycling site located at Ping Shan in Yuen Long was suspected to be involved in illegal collection, storage and handling of large quantities of hazardous e-waste,

which is regulated as chemical waste. About 1 ton of hazardous e-waste, mainly waste printed circuit boards (PCBs), was found during the operation, with an estimated export market value of around \$100,000. Separately, LandsD is also investigating whether there was any violation of land lease conditions at the above recycling site. The FSD also reminded responsible persons and staff of the recycling sites about fire safety requirements during the operation.

The spokesman stressed that dismantled or destroyed PCBs, LCD monitors and cathode ray tubes are hazardous e-waste, containing heavy metals and other toxic substances. They are classified as chemical waste and are regulated under the existing laws on chemical waste disposal. Chemical waste is hazardous by nature and, if not properly controlled, will pollute the environment and pose a risk to the health of relevant trade practitioners and the general public. Hence, the Government has been applying stringent control of the recycling and handling of hazardous e-waste in accordance with the existing law.

The EPD reminded recycling operators that they should strictly comply with the law on the control of chemical waste. They should register with the EPD in accordance with the law if they produce chemical waste. Chemical waste must be properly packaged, labelled and stored, as well as collected by licensed chemical waste collectors for delivery to licensed chemical waste disposal facilities for disposal. A permit has to be obtained in advance from the EPD for importing and exporting chemical waste. First-time offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and six months' imprisonment. For subsequent offences, offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$500,000 and two years' imprisonment.

Members of the public may visit the EPD's website for more information about the control of chemical waste: www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/waste/guide_ref/guide_cwc.html.





[Guidance Notes for Solar Photovoltaic System Installation launched today](#)

To combat climate change, the Government is actively promoting the development of renewable energy (RE). It has also introduced the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) to provide incentives for individuals and non-Government bodies to encourage them to invest in RE. To assist the public in understanding issues related to solar photovoltaic (PV) system installations and the FiT application procedures, the Government launched the Guidance Notes for Solar Photovoltaic System Installation today (October 15). The Guidance Notes cover the detailed requirements for the installation of solar PV systems on the rooftops of New Territories Exempted Houses (also known as village houses).

A Government spokesman said the Chief Executive had announced in the 2018 Policy Address and Policy Agenda that further support and facilitation would be provided for individuals and organisations participating in RE development, including suitably relaxing the restrictions on installation of solar PV systems on the rooftops of village houses. Subject to the fulfilment of specified conditions, PV systems including the supporting structure not greater than 2.5 metres in height may be installed on the rooftops of village houses such that residents may continue to use their roofs for legal purposes while combating climate change. The Government will also consider making appropriate relaxations for rooftops of other private buildings, in particular low-rise ones.

The spokesman said, "The two power companies have introduced/will introduce their respective FiT Schemes in October this year and January next year and have been receiving applications for the schemes. The initial response from the community has been positive, with around 500 applications received by the two power companies by the end of September. We believe that the Guidance Notes will provide members of the public who are interested in installing solar PV panels at their premises and the trade with handy guidelines. The Government will also lead by example by developing RE at suitable premises and buildings, and will continue to launch various facilitation measures to encourage the community to join hands in fostering

RE development."

The Guidance Notes have been uploaded to the website of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) (re.emsd.gov.hk/english/fit/useful_links/files/PVGuidanceNotes.pdf) for reference by the public. For more information on the installation of solar PV panels, please visit the Hong Kong Renewable Energy Net (HK RE Net) (re.emsd.gov.hk) or call the EMSD's hotline (6395 2930) during office hours.

Missing woman in Kwai Chung located

A woman who went missing in Kwai Chung was located.

Wong Wing-chi, aged 28, went missing after she left her residence in Kwai Chung Estate on October 12 morning. Her family made a report to Police on the same day.

The woman turned up to Police to cancel the missing person report yesterday (October 14) evening.

Update on cases of Legionnaires' disease

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (October 15) reported the latest number of cases of Legionnaires' disease (LD), and stressed the importance of using and maintaining properly designed man-made water systems, and that susceptible groups should strictly observe relevant precautions.

From October 7 to 13, four community-acquired LD cases were reported. They are:

1. A male patient, aged 80 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Block 1, Locwood Court, Kingswood Villas, Tin Shui Wai;
2. A female patient, aged 61 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Apollo Building, 164-170 Castle Peak Road, Sham Shui Po;
3. A female patient, aged 62 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Tower 3, The Visionary, 1 Ying Hong Street, Tung Chung; and
4. A male patient, aged 81 with underlying illnesses, who lives in Kam Kei House, Kam Tai Court, Ma On Shan.

"Epidemiological investigations are ongoing to identify potential sources of infection, high-risk exposure and clusters, if any," a spokesman for the CHP said.

As of October 13, 85 LD cases had been reported in 2018. In 2017 and 2016, there were 72 and 75 cases respectively.

"Men, people aged over 50, smokers, alcoholics and persons with weakened immunity are more susceptible to LD. Some situations may also increase the risk of infection, including poor maintenance of water systems leading to stagnant water; living in areas with old water systems, cooling towers or fountains; using electric water heaters, whirlpools and spas or hot water spring spas; and recent stays in hotels or vessels," the spokesman said.

Legionellae are found in various environmental settings and grow well in warm water (20 to 45 degrees Celsius). They can be found in aqueous environments such as water tanks, hot and cold water systems, cooling towers, whirlpools and spas, water fountains and home apparatus which support breathing. People may get infected when they breathe in contaminated droplets (aerosols) and mist generated by artificial water systems, or when handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes.

Immunocompromised persons should:

1. Use sterile or boiled water for drinking, tooth brushing and mouth rinsing;
2. Avoid using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices. A shower may also generate small aerosols; and
3. If using humidifiers, or other mist- or aerosol-generating devices, fill the water tank with only sterile or cooled freshly boiled water, and not water directly from the tap. Also, clean and maintain humidifiers/devices regularly according to manufacturers' instructions. Never leave stagnant water in a humidifier/device. Empty the water tank, wipe all surfaces dry, and change the water daily.

The public should observe the health advice below:

- Observe personal hygiene;
- Do not smoke and avoid alcohol consumption;
- Strainers in water taps and shower heads should be inspected, cleaned, descaled and disinfected regularly or at a frequency recommended by the manufacturer;
- If a fresh water plumbing system is properly maintained, it is not necessary to install domestic water filters. Use of water filters is not encouraged as clogging occurs easily, which can promote growth of micro-organisms. In case water filters are used, the pore size should be 0.2 micrometres (μm) and the filter needs to be changed periodically according to the manufacturer's recommendations;
- Drain and clean water tanks of buildings at least quarterly;
- Drain or purge for at least one minute the infrequently used water

outlets (e.g. water taps, shower heads and hot water outlets) and stagnant points of the pipework weekly or before use;

- Seek and follow doctors' professional advice regarding the use and maintenance of home respiratory devices and use only sterile (not distilled or tap water) to clean and fill the reservoir. Clean and maintain the device regularly according to the manufacturer's instructions. After cleaning/disinfection, rinse the device with sterile water, cooled freshly boiled water or water filtered with 0.2 µm filters. Never leave stagnant water in the device. Empty the water tank, keep all surfaces dry, and change the water daily; and
- When handling garden soil, compost and potting mixes:
 1. Wear gloves and a face mask;
 2. Water gardens and compost gently using low pressure;
 3. Open composted potting mixes slowly and make sure the opening is directed away from the face;
 4. Wet the soil to reduce dust when potting plants; and
 5. Avoid working in poorly ventilated places such as enclosed greenhouses.

The public may visit the CHP's [LD page](#), the [Code of Practice for Prevention of LD](#) and the [Housekeeping Guidelines for Cold and Hot Water Systems for Building Management](#) of the Prevention of LD Committee, and the CHP's [risk-based strategy](#) for prevention and control of LD.