

Exhibition of flower show winning photos at Kowloon Park (with photos)

Winning entries of the "Joy in Bloom" photo competition of the annual Hong Kong Flower Show, which was held in March at Victoria Park, are now on display in the Kowloon Park Arcade until July 31, from 7am to 11pm daily. Admission to the exhibition is free.

The photo competition, jointly organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB), was one of the show's major fringe activities to promote community greening.

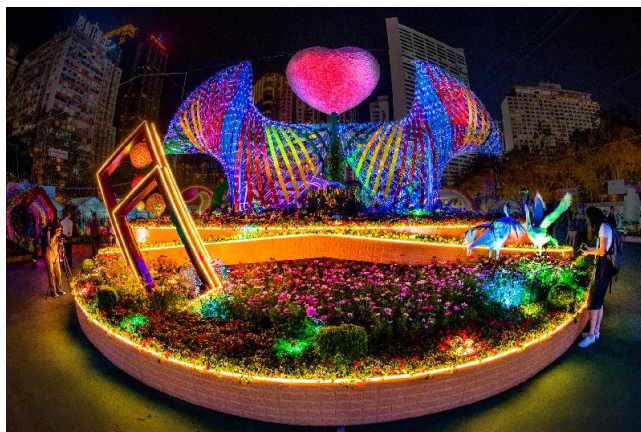
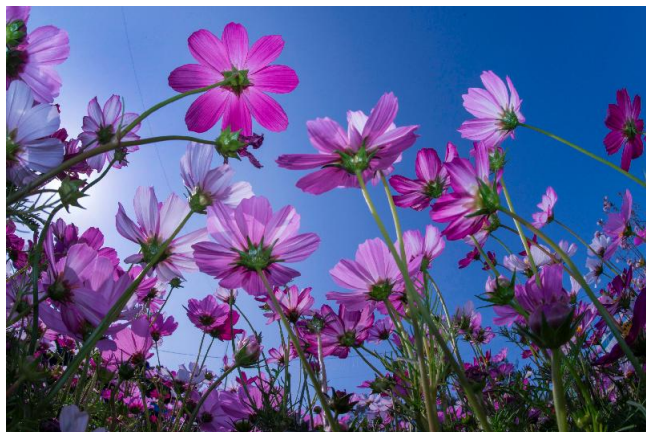
The competition was divided into three categories – Category A: Portrait of TVB Artistes and Miss Hong Kong (Open Section and Student Section); Category B: Flowers; and Category C: Snapshots.

This year, the competition received over 5 800 entries including photographs of beautiful flowers and plants, pictures of interesting features, and portraits of artistes from TVB and Miss Hong Kong 2017 titleholders posing in the garden displays.

The winning entries have also been uploaded to the flower show webpage at www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/hkfs/2018/photo_rs.php. For enquiries, please call 2601 8260.

The flower show was organised by the LCSD. The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust supported the flower show for the sixth consecutive year and has been its Major Sponsor since 2014. The photo competition was sponsored by Manfrotto Distribution HK Limited and Tamron Industries (Hong Kong) Limited.





SED on self-financing tertiary institutions

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Secretary for Education, Mr Kevin Yeung, at a media session after officiating at the launch ceremony of the Citi-HKCSS Community Intern Program today (June 26):

Reporter: Mr Yeung, the privately run tertiary institutions have got a sharp increase, but the number of students is going downwards. How does the Government cope with this situation and will the Government consider cancelling some institutions' licences if the privately run institutions are not up to standard?

Secretary for Education: I think that it involves two issues here. The first one is that we already know the number of students or DSE (Diploma of Secondary Education) graduates will be decreasing in the coming years. All self-financing institutions already know this fact, and we are expecting that there will be some sort of consolidation anyway in the coming years.

But the question posed by the Task Force (on Review of Self-financing Post-secondary Education) is whether we should have a requirement on the quality of the institutions after registration, whether they have achieved what they have already planned. So that is another issue. From that angle, it is more about the quality issue rather than an issue about the number of candidates.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

Illegal worker jailed

A Nepalese illegal worker holding a recognisance form was jailed at Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday (June 25).

During a joint operation conducted by the Immigration Department (ImmD), the Hong Kong Police Force and the Labour Department codenamed "Champion" on May 17, enforcement officers raided a restaurant in Sheung Wan. A male Nepalese illegal worker, aged 29, was arrested. When intercepted he was serving customers. Upon identity checking, he produced for inspection a recognisance form issued by the ImmD, which prohibits him from taking employment. Further investigation revealed that he was a non-refoulement claimant.

The illegal worker was 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. After trial, he was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment.

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.

Fatal traffic accident in Mong Kok

Police are investigating a fatal traffic accident in Mong Kok today (June 26), in which an 87-year-old woman died.

At about 4.43am, a medium goods vehicle (MGV) driven by a 40-year-old man reportedly knocked down the 87-year-old woman when it reversed on Cheung Wong Road near Shamchun Street junction.

Sustaining injury on head, the woman was certified dead at scene.

The MGV driver was arrested for dangerous driving causing death and is being detained for further enquiries.

Investigation by the Special Investigation Team of Traffic, Kowloon West is underway.

Anyone who witnessed the accident or has any information to offer is urged to contact the investigating officers on 3661 9000 or 3661 9058.

Fatal traffic accident in Mong Kok

Police are investigating a fatal traffic accident in Mong Kok today (June 26), in which an 87-year-old woman died.

At about 4.43am, a medium goods vehicle (MGV) driven by a 40-year-old man reportedly knocked down the 87-year-old woman when it reversed on Cheung Wong Road near Shamchun Street junction.

Sustaining injury on head, the woman was certified dead at scene.

The MGV driver was arrested for dangerous driving causing death and is being detained for further enquiries.

Investigation by the Special Investigation Team of Traffic, Kowloon West is underway.

Anyone who witnessed the accident or has any information to offer is urged to contact the investigating officers on 3661 9000 or 3661 9058.