

Drop recorded in August's monthly ovitrap index for Aedes albopictus

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) today (September 14) announced that the monthly ovitrap index for *Aedes albopictus* for August dropped to 7.3 per cent from 15.7 per cent in July. Though there was a decrease in the ovitrap index, the mosquito infestation was still slightly more extensive in the areas surveyed. Coupled with the 29 local dengue fever (DF) cases recorded so far, the FEHD reminded the public to remain vigilant and keep up effective prevention and control measures against mosquitoes, as well as to take personal protective measures to reduce the risk of contracting mosquito-borne diseases through mosquito bites.

"*Aedes albopictus* is a kind of mosquito that can transmit DF and Zika virus. In view of the 29 local DF cases recorded in Hong Kong since mid-August, and that the weather in Hong Kong remains hot and rainy even though autumn has arrived, which is favourable for the breeding of mosquitoes, as well as DF is still highly prevalent in neighbouring areas, the public must stay alert and work with the Government to continue to carry out effective mosquito prevention and control measures," an FEHD spokesman said.

Among the 57 areas surveyed last month, only the Area Ovitrap Index (AOI) in Yau Tong (34.7 per cent) exceeded the alert level of 20 per cent. As for the port areas, the monthly ovitrap index for *Aedes albopictus* for August also dropped to 2.2 per cent from 2.7 per cent in July.

The spokesman said, "The FEHD is very concerned about mosquito problems. In response to the local DF cases, the FEHD commenced the third phase of the territory-wide anti-mosquito campaign from mid-August and has enhanced the territory-wide all-out anti-mosquito operations to concentrate on killing adult mosquitoes with a view to reducing the risk of the spread of DF. During the period, relevant departments and the Hospital Authority have also carried out the all-out anti-mosquito operations in areas under their purview, including conducting fogging operations in the scrubby areas within 200-metre radius of the residences every week to kill adult mosquitoes; carrying out inspection of venues, removing stagnant water, applying insecticide and disposing of abandoned water containers every week to prevent mosquito breeding; and trimming of grass to remove the potential habitat of adult mosquitoes and facilitate mosquito control work. The decrease in August's monthly index showed that we started seeing the results of the aforementioned operations."

In addition, an inter-departmental anti-mosquito response mechanism has been activated in the area with the AOI reaching the alert level of 20 per cent for co-ordinating relevant departments and stakeholders to carry out effective mosquito prevention and control measures. Relevant departments have individually notified the groups that had voluntarily subscribed to the ovitrap rapid alert system in that area. Subscribers have been invited to

post specially designed alert notices in the common parts of their premises to urge occupants and staff to carry out mosquito prevention and control measures promptly.

The FEHD has also swiftly handled mosquito complaints and taken out prosecutions against mosquito breeding under the relevant ordinance. The FEHD set up four Pest Control Inspection Teams in May last year to step up inspection of construction sites and enforcement action against mosquito breeding. This year (as at September 9), the FEHD had instituted 155 prosecutions for mosquito breeding found in relevant premises under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap 132), comprising 147 cases involving construction sites and eight cases involving other premises.

The spokesman added, "In order to keep the public abreast of the latest situation of mosquito infestation and facilitate them to take timely mosquito prevention and control measures, the FEHD has released additional AOI for *Aedes albopictus* at two more stages starting from September, apart from the announcement of the monthly AOI and the monthly ovitrap index for *Aedes albopictus*. The FEHD will follow the established practice of notifying relevant government departments of the aforementioned indices so that they can carry out targeted mosquito prevention and control work promptly to strengthen the anti-mosquito efforts."

The FEHD and relevant government departments will continue to intensify their mosquito prevention and control work covering areas under their purview, and strengthen publicity and education campaigns, including closely liaising with local organisations and widely disseminating anti-mosquito messages through their community network. In addition, the district offices of the FEHD will target areas which have drawn particular concern, such as public markets, cooked food centres and hawker bazaars, single-block buildings, streets and back lanes, common parts of buildings, village houses, construction sites, vacant sites and road works sites to intensify mosquito prevention and control work. The FEHD will, immediately after each phase of the campaign, conduct special territory-wide thematic mosquito prevention and control operations so as to enhance the effectiveness of the campaign.

As *Aedes albopictus* breeds in small water bodies, the spokesman reminded members of the public to continue to carry out effective mosquito prevention and control measures, including inspecting their homes and surroundings to remove potential breeding grounds, scrubbing vases and pot plant saucers at least once a week, properly disposing of containers such as soft drink cans and lunch boxes, and drilling large holes in unused tyres. He also advised the public and estate management bodies to keep drains free of blockage and fill up all depressions to prevent puddles from forming. They should also scrub all drains and surface sewers with an alkaline detergent compound at least once a week to remove any mosquito eggs.

In addition, rural areas and the vicinity of shrubby areas are the natural habitats for mosquitoes, other insects and animals. Members of the public living in rural areas may install mosquito screens on windows and doors if necessary. Those staying in the natural environment should follow

appropriate personal protective measures against mosquitoes, such as avoiding staying in the vicinity of shrubby areas for a long time, wearing light-coloured long-sleeved clothes and trousers and applying DEET-containing insect repellent. Members of the public are reminded to make reports to the government departments via 1823 if mosquito problems are detected.

The spokesman reiterated that effective mosquito control requires the sustained effort of all parties concerned. The community must work together with the Government to carry out effective mosquito control measures.

The ovitrap index is divided into four levels, reflecting the infestation level of *Aedes albopictus*. Level 1 (< 5 per cent) indicates that infestation of the mosquito is not extensive in the area surveyed. Level 2 (5 per cent – < 20 per cent) indicates that infestation of the mosquito is slightly more extensive in the area surveyed. Level 3 (20 per cent – < 40 per cent) indicates that infestation of the mosquito exceeds one-fifth of the area surveyed. Level 4 (\geq 40 per cent) indicates that almost half of the surveyed area is infested with the mosquito. The Government will step up the scale of anti-mosquito operations according to the level of infestation as well as reports from front-line staff and the public.

As *Aedes albopictus* can transmit DF and Zika virus, oviposition traps are set in 57 areas in Hong Kong for monitoring the breeding of *Aedes albopictus*, which is only one of the mosquito species commonly found in Hong Kong and is active only in the daytime. The index does not capture the activity of *Aedes albopictus* outside the 57 areas and it also does not measure the prevalence of other kinds of mosquitoes.

The ovitrap indices for *Aedes albopictus* in different areas and information on mosquito prevention and control measures are available on the department website at www.fehd.gov.hk.

September 2018 issue of “Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics” now available

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) published today (September 14) the September 2018 issue of the "Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics" (HKMDS).

Apart from providing up-to-date statistics, this issue also contains two feature articles entitled "Analysis on Full-time and Part-time Employment, 2007 to 2017" and "Statistics on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, 2007 to 2017". Statistics presented in the "Statistics on

Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, 2007 to 2017" article are based on the data source from the Social Welfare Department.

"Analysis on Full-time and Part-time Employment, 2007 to 2017"

During 2007 to 2017, the number of part-time employed persons registered a higher growth rate than that of full-time employed persons, thus part-time employment accounted for an increasing share of total employment. This feature article provides an analysis on the profiles of full-time and part-time employed persons of Hong Kong over this period, using information obtained from the General Household Survey.

For enquiries about this feature article, please contact the Household Statistics Analysis Section, C&SD (Tel: 2887 5208; email: ghs@censtatd.gov.hk).

"Statistics on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, 2007 to 2017"

According to the data source from the Social Welfare Department, the total number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases has decreased gradually at an average rate of 2.1% per annum in the past decade. The number of cases fell from nearly 290 000 as at the end of 2007 to about 230 000 as at the end of 2017. Larger extents of decrease were noted in low-earnings cases (-12.8%) and unemployment cases (-9.0%). There were 336 681 CSSA recipients as at the end of 2017, representing a drop of 32.2% when compared with that as at the end of 2007.

This feature article describes the major changes in the number of CSSA cases and recipients during the period from 2007 to 2017.

For enquiries about this feature article, please contact the Research and Statistics Section, Social Welfare Department (Tel: 2892 5225; email: rsenq@swd.gov.hk).

Published in bilingual form, the HKMDS is a compact volume of official statistics containing about 140 tables. It collects up-to-date statistical series on various aspects of the social and economic situation of Hong Kong. Topics include population; labour; external trade; National Income and Balance of Payments; prices; business performance; energy; housing and property; government accounts, finance and insurance; and transport, communications and tourism. For selected key statistical items, over 20 charts depicting the annual trend in the past decade and quarterly or monthly trend in the recent two years are also available. Users can download the Digest free of charge at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp460.jsp?productCode=B1010002).

Enquiries about the contents of the Digest can be directed to the Statistical Information Services Section of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 4738; email: gen-enquiry@censtatd.gov.hk).

Leonis Quartet promise classical music and laughter in "Total Eclipse"

Graduates of some of the most prestigious music schools in France, the members of Leonis Quartet, namely violinists Guillaume Antonin and Sebastien Richaud, violist Alphonse Dervieux and cellist Julien Decoin, promise an evening of classical music and laughter in a concert "Total Eclipse" to be staged in October.

Highly cultivated in the field of classical music, the four musicians will entertain the audience with a burlesque and poetic performance involving anything from passionate tango and free-spirited gypsy music to psychedelic rock and classical.

"Total Eclipse" is a musical and visual theatre show that offers an alternative image of classical music through humour and movement. The show uses comical situations rather than musical gags, and relies-in part-on a musical repertoire often unknown to the general public, also including some of the greatest string quartet pieces by Beethoven, Mozart and Haydn. The show takes the audience on a voyage to the fantastic world of the classical musician, who may try to free himself from the rigorous demands of classical music but gets drawn back in again and again.

"Total Eclipse" by Leonis Quartet is one of the highlights of the Music Delights Series presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. The concert will be staged at 8pm on October 6 (Saturday) at the Auditorium of the Sha Tin Town Hall. Tickets priced at \$120, \$180 and \$240 are now available from the URBTIX (www.urbtix.hk).

For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7321 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/music/programs_590.html

Appointments to Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong

The Government announced today (September 14) the appointment of two new

members and the re-appointment of six incumbent members to the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong (VSB) from September 15, 2018, until such time as the newly constituted VSB with elected members is established.

The two new members are Dr Katriona Christine Ferguson Bradley and Dr Henry Yeung Chiu-fat.

Dr Bradley is an experienced veterinary practitioner in private practice. Dr Yeung is a medical doctor in private practice.

The Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, welcomed the new members and those re-appointed to the VSB. She said she looked forward to their contribution to the work of the VSB in upholding the professional standards of veterinary surgeons in Hong Kong.

Professor Chan also thanked the two outgoing members, Dr Gabriel Choi Kin and Dr Diane Lu Dah-an, for their dedicated service and valuable contribution to the VSB over the years.

Enacted in 1997, the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap 529) provides for the establishment of the VSB, which is responsible for the regulation of the practice of veterinary surgery, the registration of veterinary surgeons, and the disciplinary control of the professional activities of registered veterinary surgeons in Hong Kong.

The Ordinance has been amended by the Veterinary Surgeons Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2015, passed by the Legislative Council (LegCo) on March 18, 2015. Among other proposals, the membership of the VSB will increase from 10 persons to 19. Six of the seats are to be filled by registered veterinary surgeons elected by members of the profession. The Government is working on subsidiary legislation governing the election of registered veterinary surgeons to the VSB. Subject to passage of the proposed subsidiary legislation through the LegCo, the election is expected to take place in 2019. As and when the elected members are in place to join the VSB, the Government will bring the amendment ordinance into full operation. That future date is also expected to be the time at which the newly constituted VSB will come into operation.

Following is the membership list of the VSB as from September 15, 2018:

Chairman

Professor Ching Pak-chung

Members

Mr Au Pak-ching

Dr Katriona Christine Ferguson Bradley

Dr Olivia Chan Sinn-kay

Dr Tint Naing

Mr Timothy Ng Sau-kin

Dr Brian David Stewart

Dr Florence Tang Mei-kuen

Dr Henry Yeung Chiu-fat

Analytical accounts of Exchange Fund

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) released today (September 14) the key analytical accounts of the Exchange Fund at the end of August 2018.

Foreign assets, representing the external assets of the Exchange Fund, decreased during the month by HK\$54.7 billion to HK\$3,487.1 billion.

The Monetary Base, comprising Certificates of Indebtedness, Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation, the balance of the banking system and Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued, amounted to HK\$1,611.2 billion.

Claims on the private sector in Hong Kong amounted to HK\$225.4 billion.

The analytical accounts of the Exchange Fund are released in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and are referred to as the Analytical Accounts of the Central Bank under SDDS (Annex).

At present, four press releases relating to the Exchange Fund's data are issued by the HKMA each month. Three of these releases are issued to disseminate monetary data in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's SDDS. The fourth press release, on the Exchange Fund's Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account, is made in accordance with the HKMA's policy of maintaining a high level of transparency. For the month of September 2018, the scheduled dates for issuing the press releases are as follows:

September 7 (Issued)	SDDS International Reserves (Hong Kong's Latest Foreign Currency Reserve Assets Figures)
September 14	SDDS Analytical Accounts of the Central Bank (Analytical Accounts of the Exchange Fund)

September 28	SDDS Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity
September 28	Exchange Fund Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account