

Inter-departmental meeting convened to review preparedness and contingency plan for tropical cyclone (with photos)

With the approach of Super Typhoon Mangkhut on the weekend, the Government this afternoon (September 12) convened an inter-departmental meeting to review the preparedness and contingency plan for tropical cyclones to ensure that suitable measures and co-ordinations are put in place to minimise the impacts brought by the inclement weather.

The Secretary for Security, Mr John Lee, chaired the inter-departmental meeting this afternoon to strengthen co-ordination and communication among departments under the Emergency Response System. He also directed all emergency response departments to have their deployment and emergency response plans ready for the possible threats that may be brought to Hong Kong by Super Typhoon Mangkhut.

On the present forecast by the Hong Kong Observatory, Super Typhoon Mangkhut is expected to bring adverse weather to Hong Kong on Sunday (September 16), with frequent squalls and heavy rain. Together with the storm surge, seas will be very rough with swells and low-lying areas may have flooding or backflow of seawater.

Issues on response plans of emergency, monitoring and co-ordination, preventive measures, information flow and public announcement, as well as logistic support were discussed in the meeting. Representatives from relevant bureaux and departments also reported their preparatory work and contingency plans, particularly on measures in the prevention and handling of flooding, backflow of seawater and emergency plans for high-risk locations, in response to the tropical cyclone.

Mr Lee reminded that all departments should take timely precautions and maintain close liaison and co-ordination while the Security Bureau would closely monitor the situation. Depending on the prevailing situation, the Security Bureau may escalate the emergency response level and activate the Emergency Monitoring and Support Centre. He also asked all departments, especially emergency rescue departments and related units, to get prepared for the tropical cyclone.

The Government will convene another inter-departmental meeting on Friday (September 14) to evaluate the latest situation. All departments will also report their preparatory work and operational arrangements under contingency plans.

Today's meeting was attended by representatives from 30 government

bureaux, departments and organisations including Buildings Department, Civil Aid Service, Civil Engineering and Development Department, Drainage Services Department, Education Bureau, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Fire Services Department, Home Affairs Department, Housing Department, Highways Department, Hong Kong Police Force, Hong Kong Observatory, Information Services Department, Transport Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Marine Department, Social Welfare Department and Water Supplies Department.

The Hong Kong Observatory is closely monitoring the movement of Super Typhoon Mangkhut as well as weather conditions, and will issue relevant warning promptly. Members of the public are advised to pay attention to the latest information on the super typhoon.



[Tenders invited for Kwai Tsing District Health Centre](#)

The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) today (September 12) invited open tenders from non-public entities to provide services for the operation of the Kwai Tsing District Health Centre (DHC), marking a step forward in strengthening the district's primary healthcare services.

The Kwai Tsing DHC will be a hub comprising a Core Centre serving as the DHC headquarters, supplemented by five Satellite Centres in Kwai Tsing sub-districts and a network of medical and healthcare practitioners providing multiple access and service points.

"We aim to establish the DHC in Kwai Tsing District around the third quarter of next year with a brand new operation mode and funding support from the Government. Through public-private partnership and medical-social collaboration, the centre will provide district-based primary healthcare services which cater for the needs and characteristics of the district and enhance public awareness of disease prevention and their ability in self-management of health," said a spokesman for the FHB.

The successful tenderer (i.e. the future operator of the DHC), upon

being awarded the service contract in early 2019, will gear up for the targeted commissioning of the Kwai Tsing DHC and service network as from October 2019 for a three-year operation period.

The operator will be responsible for recruiting:

(a) a Core Team (with an Executive Director and a Chief Care Co-ordinator as key personnel, along with a minimum of 19 other healthcare workers, social workers, administrative staff, etc). The key personnel should commence service within three months upon contract award, and the rest suitably before the targeted DHC commissioning in October 2019;

(b) a network of medical and healthcare professionals (at least 10 medical practitioners, and at least 20 healthcare professionals including physiotherapists, occupational therapists, pharmacists and Chinese medicine practitioners) from Kwai Tsing and its adjoining districts to support the DHC operation. Network services should be available by October 2019.

The operator will have to fit out a Core Centre for service by October 2019, and arrange for the commissioning of five satellite centres in different parts of Kwai Tsing, for service no later than 12 months after October 2019.

The basic services to be operated by the DHC are set out in the tender document. The services are to be subsidised by the Government and the charges which the operator may impose on DHC clients cannot exceed the prescribed ceilings set out in the tender document.

"Strengthening primary healthcare services is a key priority for the FHB. For this purpose, we have established the Steering Committee on Primary Healthcare Development to review comprehensively the planning of the existing primary healthcare services and to develop a blueprint for the sustainable development of primary healthcare services for Hong Kong. The Steering Committee also makes recommendations on the Government's strategy towards developing primary healthcare services. Steering Committee members comprise medical professionals, academics, non-government organisations (NGOs) and partners in the community. In view of the experience of the DHC in Kwai Tsing District, we shall gradually set up DHCs in all 18 districts."

On the advice of the Steering Committee, the Kwai Tsing DHC will accord priority to the management of common chronic diseases, including hypertension, diabetes mellitus, musculoskeletal disorder, as well as community rehabilitation services for post-acute myocardial infarction, stroke and hip fracture patients.

To prepare for the establishment of the DHC, the FHB has organised 12 consultation sessions with different parties and stakeholders, including medical professionals and NGOs, from this March to August to collect the views of different sectors.

The tender notice has been uploaded to the FHB website:

https://www.fhb.gov.hk/en/tender/180912_ktdhc/index.html. Interested bidders can send representatives to attend a briefing at the Central Government Offices from 11am to 1pm on September 26 (Wednesday) and a site visit to the Core Centre in October (details to be announced). Details are set out in the tender documents.

"The Kwai Tsing DHC is to provide quality services to the community and safeguard public health. The quality of services will be the major consideration in the evaluation of tenders, accounting for 70 per cent of the total score. The Government is committing substantial resources for the contract under this new mode of primary healthcare service delivery, within a budgeted annual operating expenditure of \$100 million and a total contract sum of \$350 million. To ensure effective use of public funds, price assessment will account for 30 per cent of the total score," added the spokesman.

Tenderers must submit their tenders by placing them in the Government Logistics Department Tender Box situated on the Ground Floor, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong, before noon on November 16, 2018 (Friday). Late tenders will not be accepted.

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[Speech by CE at 2018 Hong Kong Fintech Week \(English only\) \(with photos\)](#)

Following is the speech by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at 2018 Hong Kong Fintech Week today (September 12):

Stephen (Director-General of Investment Promotion, Mr Stephen Phillips), ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening. I'm pleased to be here this evening for the launch reception of Hong Kong Fintech Week 2018.

The Fintech Week is still some six weeks away, so I must say I'm delighted with the turnout this evening, with so many of you from different areas of our flourishing Fintech community as well as from banking and financial services in general joining us. Your presence this evening is a clear reflection of the holistic approach the industry and its investors, together with the institutions, the regulators and this government, are taking when it comes to the development of Fintech. It also shows that we are all aware of the importance and the long-term promise that Fintech can offer us all.

Technology is leading the world into a new era, bringing with it a dramatic shift in the global economy. How we do business, how we interact with our customers, our communities, our family and our friends, and in general how we live our lives are being transformed by technology. The

financial services sector is no exception. It is being rewire to keep pace with our everyday lives, furnishing retailers and consumers with the electronic means to buy and sell with unprecedented ease and speed. We can now make payments through a wide array of electronic means, with or without a physical card. We can remit money across the globe with a tap of our fingers, with the intended recipients getting the cash almost instantly. We have e-wallets, mobile phone wallets, etc. here in Hong Kong and around the world. Technology is also helping companies, especially SMEs, trade and do business, saving time and papers in the process. Those of you who have the chance to visit the Mainland of China in recent years would know what a cashless society is like, and the convenience it brings.

My Government has targeted Fintech as a key technology area to focus on and invest in. Fintech is a natural evolution for Hong Kong, one of the world's leading international financial centres and among the world's most competitive economies. We are blessed with a strategic location and growing economic integration with Mainland China. We are also having a highly enabling and efficient information and communications technology sector, a vigorous financial regulatory framework and the rule of law.

And let's not forget our deep pool of talent in financial and professional services as well as in our research expertise and our tertiary institutions. Last year, the Chinese University of Hong Kong introduced a new, four-year undergraduate programme in Fintech. And just a few months ago, the University of Hong Kong launched Asia's first Fintech open online course, with the support of Australia's University of New South Wales and a variety of industry leaders.

We are determined to rise as the region's and one of the world's Fintech hubs. Indeed, that's already happening. For Fintech investors, Hong Kong has become their first choice in East Asia outside the Mainland. Fintech investment here has spiralled in recent years, from about US\$108 million in 2015 to US\$216 million in 2016, and some US\$546 million last year.

To fast-track that marvellous momentum, my Government and Hong Kong's regulators are ready to launch a raft of Fintech initiatives. I am told that the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) will very soon begin the long-anticipated Faster Payment System. It will set in motion full connectivity between banks and stored value facility operators. That means around-the-clock, real-time fund transfer for peer-to-peer and merchant payments. One will only need to register his mobile phone number or email address with a bank or stored value facility account in order to allow payments to be made to him anytime, anywhere.

A common QR code enabling mobile payment is also on the way. A number of stored value facility operators are already providing QR code payments at various locations now. Their services have expanded to a variety of chain supermarkets, convenience stores and even some wet markets and taxis. To expand mobile retail payment and provide greater convenience for both merchants and customers, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the industry have agreed upon a common QR code standard, which will soon be launched

publicly.

Then there's virtual banking, which is primed to transform the industry. In May, the HKMA issued revised guidelines for the authorisation of virtual banks. It has received about 30 virtual bank applications to date, ranging from telecommunications operators and Fintech companies to global banks. I understand that the HKMA hopes to start granting licences to virtual banks by the first quarter of next year.

An essential element for Fintech is talent. Last month, we introduced Hong Kong's first Talent List, created to attract talented professionals from around the world. The list focuses on 11 professions and they include specialists in Fintech, as well as cyber-security and innovation and technology. We welcome them all with open arms, for we believe that a vibrant mix of local, Mainland and overseas talents can keep our Fintech ecology connected to the latest ideas and developments of the global Fintech landscape and be most conducive to having the next big Fintech innovations right here in Hong Kong.

The Government's role in Fintech is that of a facilitator. It's our job to lay down the foundation, including building the financial infrastructure for the faster payment system, setting standards for the common QR code, reworking the guidelines to welcome virtual banks and ensuring an abundant supply of talent. We hope that they will help the industry focus on creating Fintech solutions for their customers and for our society at large.

We also take up the role of promoter. Certainly, Hong Kong Fintech Week, in its 3rd edition this year, is a splendid occasion in which to showcase to the world what Hong Kong has to offer. This year, the Fintech Week will welcome some 8 000 executives and professionals from about 50 countries and regions, along with more than 200 celebrated speakers. For the first time, a "Fast Track Programme" will be added to facilitate start-ups and international exhibitors to establish their presence in Hong Kong. In addition, this year's Fintech Week will serve as an unprecedented cross-boundary event, moving from Hong Kong to Shenzhen on its final day. That will give participants the extraordinary opportunity to visit Fintech companies and network with their stakeholders.

The cross-boundary event will be an excellent opportunity to showcase the unique role of Hong Kong as a conduit to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Consisting of nine cities and two special administrative regions and with a population close to 70 million, the Greater Bay Area can offer Hong Kong a huge market, talent as well as complementary advantages of other cities, which will fuel Hong Kong's Fintech development.

Hong Kong's participation in the Greater Bay Area development will get a huge boost later this month. As you all know, the high-speed rail linking Hong Kong to Shenzhen, Guangzhou and the rest of the Mainland of China, with the terminus right here at West Kowloon, will begin operation on September 23, which is 11 days from now. We are all looking forward to it, and I encourage you to make use of the high speed train for the Shenzhen day event

of the Fintech Week. Get a stop at the Futian Station.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish Fintech Week 2018 every success, and I wish you a very special evening. Thank you very much.



[TD's response to media enquiries](#)

In response to media enquiries on regulator kiosks and staff rest rooms at the West Kowloon Station Bus Terminus (WKSBT), a spokesman for the Transport Department (TD) gave the following reply today (September 12):

During the planning of a new public transport interchange (PTI), the TD will generally provide toilets and reserve suitable locations for franchised bus companies to set up regulator kiosks and staff rest rooms. Before the commencement of a new PTI, the TD, together with relevant franchised bus companies, will conduct trial run of buses at the PTI and will make appropriate alterations, if necessary, to ensure the bus operation is smooth.

A public toilet has been provided at the WKSBT while Kowloon Motor Bus (KMB) and Citybus (CTB) have also set up their regulator kiosks and staff rest rooms. The TD, together with KMB and CTB have already arranged trial run of buses at the bus terminus and the alteration works for related road facilities were completed to facilitate the commencement of the bus terminus

on September 16.

The TD expresses regret over the misrepresentation by KMB on the facilities of the WKSBT.