

Red flag hoisted at Clear Water Bay Second Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (September 9) that due to big waves, red flag has been hoisted at Clear Water Bay Second Beach in Sai Kung District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.

SHA to visit Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan

The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Lau Kong-wah, will depart for Astana, Kazakhstan, in the morning on September 11 (Tuesday). He will then commence his visit to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, where he will meet with officials responsible for cultural and sports policy.

During his visit in Kazakhstan, Mr Lau will attend a concert presented by Hong Kong and Kazakhstan, in which young Hong Kong musicians who play Chinese and Western music will perform with a renowned Kazakhstan orchestra.

Mr Lau will leave Kazakhstan in the evening on September 16 and arrive in Hong Kong in the morning on September 17. During his absence, the Under Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Jack Chan, will be the Acting Secretary for Home Affairs.

SWD to invite applications for 22nd batch of Support Programme for Employees with Disabilities

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will invite employers of persons with disabilities to submit applications for the 22nd batch of the Support Programme for Employees with Disabilities (SPED) from tomorrow (September 10) until October 19.

To support the employment of persons with disabilities, the SWD launched the SPED in June 2013 to provide employers of persons with disabilities with a one-off subsidy for each employee with disabilities for procurement of assistive devices and/or workplace modifications. The programme seeks to assist employees with disabilities in discharging their duties in the workplace and enhance their work efficiency.

The subsidy is capped at a maximum support level of \$20,000 for each employee with disabilities. Starting from 2014-15, a grant of up to \$40,000 may be considered for deserving cases for which the price of a single item of assistive device and its essential accessories exceeds \$20,000.

A wide range of assistive devices and workplace modifications which cater to the special needs of employees with disabilities in the workplace will be considered. Examples include computer accessories or adaptive equipment, optical magnifying devices, hearing and assistive devices, Braille products and handrails.

The Po Leung Kuk has been commissioned to serve as the SPED Administrator. It will assist in administering and promoting the SPED, provide advisory services and follow up on the progress of the subsidised programmes, prepare assessments on the applications and make recommendations to the Committee on the SPED set up by the SWD for consideration.

Employers may apply for a subsidy under the SPED through nomination of the following referring organisations:

1. non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating SWD-subvented vocational rehabilitation services;
2. NGOs running training courses for persons with disabilities or persons recovering from work injuries with the funding support of the Employees Retraining Board;
3. the Selective Placement Division of the Labour Department;
4. the Vocational Training Council; or
5. the SPED Administrator (the Po Leung Kuk).

Employers may submit their completed application forms together with the required documents by mail or by hand to the SWD through the referring organisations. No application fee is required and each applicant may submit more than one application.

For enquiries, please contact the Po Leung Kuk SPED Office by phone at 3980 9677, by email at sped@poleungkuk.org.hk or by fax at 3980 9633.

For more details, the information note and SPED application form, people may visit and download from the SWD homepage www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site_pubsvc/page_rehab/sub_listofserv/id_vocational/id_sped.

[SEN to visit San Francisco](#)

The Secretary for the Environment, Mr Wong Kam-sing, will depart for San Francisco, the United States, tomorrow (September 10) to attend the Global Climate Action Summit (GCAS) and its affiliate event, the Cities4Climate conference, both co-organised by the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. He will also meet with leaders of participating cities to exchange views on environmental issues and call at various local agencies and facilities to understand more about their work on various fronts including environmental protection and innovation.

Mr Wong will speak at the Cities4Climate conference on September 12 (San Francisco time) on Hong Kong's work in combating climate change. The two-day GCAS will start on September 13 and aims at bringing together global political and business leaders as well as different stakeholders to showcase their decarbonisation actions and discuss ways to tackle the climate crisis. Mr Wong will attend various sessions of the GCAS and deliver a speech on September 14 (San Francisco time) on Hong Kong's efforts in mitigating climate change.

Mr Wong will conclude his visit in the late hours of September 14 (San Francisco time) and return to Hong Kong in the morning of September 16.

[Oil spill sighted at Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach](#)

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department said today (September 9) that because of an oil spill, the red flag has been hoisted at Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach in Tsuen Wan District. The beach has been closed until further notice. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.