<u>Grading of beach water quality</u> <u>released</u>

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (June 8) released the latest grading of water quality for 37 gazetted beaches and one nongazetted beach (Discovery Bay) that are open for swimming.

Twenty-five beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 12 as Fair (Grade 2) and one as Very Poor (Grade 4).

Grade 1 beaches are:

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ChungHomKokBeagh
ekOBeach

С l e a r Whaoruthermany Manuacter в e a c h

DeepWaterBayBeathtephen'sBeach

Grade 2 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach Approach Beach Hoi Mei Wan Beach Kadoorie Beach Butterfly BeachLido BeachCasam BeachMa Wan Tung Wan BeachCastle Peak BeachSilverstrand BeachClear Water Bay First BeachTing Kau Beach

Grade 4 beach is:

Discovery Bay

Compared with the grading released last week, Cafeteria New Beach has been upgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 1, and Lido Beach and Ting Kau Beach from Grade 3 to Grade 2. Silverstrand Beach has been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2 and Discovery Bay from Grade 1 to Grade 4.

"The deterioration of water quality at Discovery Bay was due to the heavy rain yesterday (June 7), while the changes in other beaches are generally within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of the beaches," the EPD spokesman said.

The EPD spokesman also reminded members of the public that water quality could be temporarily affected during and after periods of heavy rain. Bathers should avoid swimming at beaches for up to three days after a storm or heavy rainfall.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. The latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the department's websites on Beach Water Quality (<u>www.beachwq.gov.hk</u> and <u>www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach</u>) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.

<u>Speech by CE at Swedish Midsummer and</u> <u>National Day Celebration (English</u> <u>only)</u>

Following is the speech by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at the Swedish Midsummer and National Day Celebration today (June 8):

Consul General (Consul General of Sweden in Hong Kong, Ms Helena Storm), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

What a pleasure to be here today in celebration of Sweden's national day and its midsummer festival, the country's most traditional of holidays. First of all, my gratitude to the Consul General and your team for opening this fantastic celebration to the people of Hong Kong. It provides an excellent opportunity for our people to appreciate the rich culture of Sweden through the music, dance, food and many other things on offer this afternoon.

I am also delighted that the celebration is taking place in the courtyard at PMQ. The Former Police Married Quarters, PMQ is one of eight Conserving Central projects, half of which are now up and running. Just two weeks ago, I took part in the opening of the nearby Central Police Station Compound – now called Tai Kwun Centre for Heritage and Arts. I must say I am thrilled to see Hong Kong's past rise again – revitalised and, as this good afternoon attests to, radiating life, purpose and good will.

Ladies and gentlemen, I can say very much the same about Hong Kong and Sweden. Our two economies, our two peoples, are finding good reasons to come together. Less than two years ago, the Karolinska Institutet's Ming Wai Lau Centre for Reparative Medicine opened here, setting in motion what I am confident will be a long and mutually rewarding collaboration between us in science and technology, as well as the creative industries. Indeed, Prince Carl Philip visited Hong Kong just six months ago, here to inaugurate the Swedish Pavilion at Business of Design Week, as well as to launch the first edition of #SwedenTalks_HK, a creative exchange that we very much look forward to building on.

The Prince is definitely not the only person from Sweden to visit us. Thanks to our mutual visa-free arrangement and direct flight connection, arrivals from Sweden to Hong Kong grew by about 25 per cent cumulatively in the past three years. And I am sure our people-to-people bond will continue to grow, especially amongst young people, with our bilateral Working Holiday Scheme commencing operation in January this year.

Ladies and gentlemen, when it comes to ties between Hong Kong and Sweden, there is a great deal more to say. But I would stop here now, so that I will have more time to tour the booths here and to learn how to make a Swedish flower crown from the Consul General.

I wish the people of Sweden a most happy and memorable national day, and everyone here an enjoyable afternoon, actually till 10pm tonight. Thank you very much.

Speech by CE at Swedish Midsummer and National Day Celebration (English only)

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HAD's Emergency Co-ordination Centre stands down

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at suitable intervals:

As the Landslip Warning has been cancelled, the Home Affairs Department's Emergency Co-ordination Centre and the emergency hotline 2835 1473 have ceased to operate.

<u>Interest rate of the second interest</u> <u>payment for Silver Bond Series due</u> <u>2020</u>

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), as representative of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSAR Government), announces today (June 8) the relevant per annum interest rate for the second interest payment of Silver Bond Series due 2020 (Issue Number 03GB2006R) (the Bonds) issued under the Retail Bond Issuance Programme of the Government Bond Programme.

According to the Issue Circular dated June 1, 2017 for the Bonds, the second interest payment of the Bonds is scheduled to be made on June 25, 2018, and the relevant interest rate is scheduled to be determined and announced on June 8, 2018 as the higher of the prevailing Floating Rate and Fixed Rate.

On June 8, 2018, the Floating Rate and Fixed Rate are as follows:

Floating Rate: +2.10%(Annex)
Fixed Rate: +2.00%

Based on the Floating Rate and Fixed Rate set out above, the relevant interest rate for the second interest payment is determined and announced as 2.10% per annum.