

Flag-raising ceremony cancelled

Owing to the thunderstorm warning, the flag-raising ceremony to be conducted at Golden Bauhinia Square, Wan Chai at 8am today (July 13) will be cancelled.

If the thunderstorm warning is cancelled and weather conditions permit by then, the flag-raising ceremony may be resumed without further notice.

CHP reminds public on precautions against heat stroke during very hot weather

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (July 13) reminded members of the public, particularly those undertaking outdoor activities, to take heed of necessary measures against heat stroke and sunburn in very hot weather.

"The public should carry and drink plenty of water to prevent dehydration while engaging in outdoor activities," a spokesman for the CHP said.

"Those engaged in strenuous outdoor activities should avoid beverages containing caffeine, such as coffee and tea, as well as alcohol, as they speed up water loss through the urinary system," the spokesman explained.

"Infants and children, the elderly, pregnant women, those with chronic illnesses such as heart disease or high blood pressure, outdoor/manual workers, and individuals who are overweight are more vulnerable to heat stroke. They should pay special attention," the spokesman added.

The public should adopt the following precautions:

- Wear loose and light-coloured clothing to reduce heat absorption and facilitate sweat evaporation and heat dissipation;
- Avoid vigorous exercise and prolonged activities like hiking or trekking as heat, sweating and exhaustion can place additional demands on the physique;
- Perform outdoor activities in the morning or the late afternoon, if possible;
- For indoor activities, open all windows, use a fan or use air-

conditioning to maintain good ventilation;

- Do not stay inside a parked vehicle; and
- Reschedule work to cooler times of the day if feasible. If working in a hot environment is inevitable, introduce shade in the workplace where practicable. Start work slowly and pick up the pace gradually. Move to a cool area for rest at regular intervals to allow the body to recuperate.

â€‹The public should also note the latest and the forecast Ultraviolet (UV) Index released by the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO). When the UV Index is high (6 or above):

- Minimise direct exposure of the skin and the eyes to sunlight;
- Wear long-sleeved and loose-fitting clothes;
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat or use an umbrella;
- Seek a shaded area or put on UV-blocking sunglasses;
- Apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen lotion with a minimum sun protection factor (SPF) of 15, preferably higher. Reapply every two hours if you stay out in the sun, and after swimming, sweating or towelling off; and
- While using DEET-containing insect repellents for personal protection against mosquito-borne diseases, apply sunscreen first, then insect repellent.

â€‹If symptoms develop, such as dizziness, headache, nausea, shortness of breath or confusion, rest and seek help immediately, and seek medical advice as soon as possible.

â€‹The public may obtain more information from the DH's Health Education Infoline (2833 0111), [heat stroke](#) page and [UV radiation](#) page; the HKO's Dial-a-Weather (1878 200), latest [weather report and forecast](#), [UV Index](#) and weather information for [hiking and mountaineering](#); and [press releases](#) of the Labour Department on precautions against heat stroke for outdoor workers and their employers when the Very Hot Weather Warning is in force.

[Very Hot Weather Warning issued](#)

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

The Hong Kong Observatory has issued the Very Hot Weather Warning.

To prevent heat stroke, avoid prolonged activities outdoors.

If engaged in outdoor work or activities, wear a wide-brimmed hat and

light-coloured, loose-fitting clothes. Stay in shaded areas as much as possible.

Drink plenty of water, and avoid beverages containing caffeine or alcohol.

If you feel sick, consult a doctor right away.

Territory-wide flag day today

The Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon has been issued a Public Subscription Permit to hold a territory-wide flag sale from 7am to 12.30pm today (July 13), a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) said.

Details of the charitable fund-raising activities, including any updated information, covered by the issued Public Subscription Permits have been published on the GovHK website (www.gov.hk/en/theme/fundraising/search). Permits for flag days containing information on contact methods of the flag-selling organisations and the approved flag-selling activities have also been uploaded to the SWD's website (www.swd.gov.hk/en/ngo/controlofc/flagdays) for reference. For enquiries, please call the SWD's hotline at 2343 2255, or the designated hotline of the 1823 Call Centre at 3142 2678.

In the case of suspected fraudulent flag day activities, people should not make any donation and should immediately report the matter to the Police, the spokesman added.

24th Plenary of Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference held in Guangzhou (with photos/videos)

The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mr John Lee, leading the delegation of the HKSAR, met with the Secretary of the CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee, Mr Huang Kunming, and co-chaired the 24th Plenary of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference with the Governor of Guangdong Province, Mr Wang Weizhong, in Guangzhou today (July 12).

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) holds strategic importance in the country's new development pattern. During his inspection

tour to Guangdong in April last year, President Xi Jinping stressed that "the GBA must be developed as a strategic fulcrum of the new development pattern, a demonstration zone of high-quality development, and a pioneer of Chinese modernisation", thereby setting the direction for taking forward the development of the GBA.

Mr Lee remarked, "Guangdong has all along been the most important partner of Hong Kong in regional co-operation with the Mainland. Hong Kong and Guangdong have a multi-disciplinary, in-depth and all-round co-operation relationship. In the past year, the communication and exchanges between the two sides have become closer, exchange visits at different levels have become more frequent, and fruitful progress in various policy measures to strengthen inter-connectivity in the GBA has been achieved. The HKSAR Government will continue to maintain close liaison with the Guangdong Provincial Government, and, under the spirit of complementarity and mutual benefits, deepen co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong, and work hand in hand to promote high-level collaboration in and high-quality development of the GBA."

The governments of Guangdong and Hong Kong have made steady progress in various co-operation areas. The progress made in individual areas and the directions set for future co-operation are outlined below.

Innovation and Technology (I&T)

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The National 14th Five-Year Plan has indicated clear support for Hong Kong's development into an international I&T centre, and has included, for the first time, the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone in the Loop as one of the major co-operation platforms in the GBA. This fully reflects the importance our country attaches to the development of Hong Kong's I&T and of the Loop. The HKSAR Government is taking forward at full steam the development of the Hong Kong Park (Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park), and will continue to promote jointly with Shenzhen the advantages of "one zone, two parks" under the "one country, two systems" principle in the Co-operation Zone. At the same time, we will strengthen I&T collaboration with other Mainland cities of the GBA, jointly promoting the development of "new industrialisation" so as to construct a more comprehensive I&T industry chain, thereby realising the strategic goal of developing "new quality productive forces".

In the future, the HKSAR Government will continue to work closely with the Guangdong Provincial Government to explore measures to facilitate convenient cross-boundary flow of innovation elements such as personnel, materials and data, and to promote the development of the GBA into an international I&T centre. Guangdong and Hong Kong will continue to promote the transformation of scientific and technological achievements through the Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Co-operation Funding Scheme, with a view to enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of enterprises in both places, and thereby contributing to our country's high-quality development. The HKSAR Government will establish the Building Technology Research Institute this year, leading the construction industry to strengthen innovative applications, accelerate the transformation and application of research

capital flow, promote cross-boundary flow of financial talent, etc.

Construction of Rule of Law

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The HKSAR Government has been actively promoting the rule of law in the GBA with a view to continuously consolidating Hong Kong's position as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region, while enabling the GBA to capitalise on its unique strengths under "one country, two systems, three jurisdictions". In April this year, the Department of Justice (DoJ) released for the first time the "Action Plan on the Construction of Rule of Law in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area", which sets out the guiding principle of "Three Interfaces, Two Connects and One GBA". The DoJ has been actively promoting the interface of mechanisms, regulatory frameworks and talents, so as to provide a rule of law environment that is stable, fair and predictable for the high-quality development of the GBA.

For legal services, the GBA Legal Professional Examination has been successfully held four times. With the strong support from the Central Government, the pilot scheme of the Examination has been approved to be extended to 2026, and the practice experience threshold for Hong Kong and Macao legal practitioners to enrol in the Examination has been lowered from five years to three years. Currently, over 450 Hong Kong and Macao legal practitioners have obtained the Lawyer's License (GBA). There are 20 representative offices of Hong Kong law firms established in Guangdong Province, and Guangdong law firms have set up branches in Hong Kong to provide diversified legal services.

Jointly pursuing the "dual carbon" goal

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The pursuit of the "dual carbon" goal is a common challenge as well as an opportunity for both Guangdong and Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government will continue to actively foster co-operation and exchange on carbon neutrality within the GBA. In respect of hydrogen energy development, HKSAR can leverage its advantages of enjoying strong support of the motherland and being closely connected to the world to become a demonstration base to promote hydrogen technologies and products from the Mainland, including Guangdong, to overseas regions. We will also explore co-operation between the two places on the development of common design and operation standards for cross-boundary hydrogen vehicle and related supporting facilities. The HKSAR Government will also continue to promote relevant work under various co-operation arrangements and memoranda, including promoting the retro-commissioning of buildings, and advancing co-operation and exchange in the field of energy efficiency labelling between the two places.

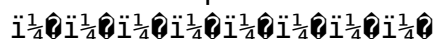
The HKSAR Government supports the proposal under the "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Ecological Environmental Protection Plan" to vigorously promote the development of a "Zero Waste" Bay Area, and explore co-operation models for achieving "Zero-waste City". Cities in the GBA can jointly explore the capacity and modes for developing a circular economy in

highly internationalised characteristic of Hong Kong's higher education sector to nurture talents for the development of the country.

On the basic education front, currently there are a number of schools for Hong Kong children in the Mainland cities of the GBA providing primary and secondary education for children of Hong Kong people. The Education Bureau (EDB) of HKSAR Government and the Department of Education of Guangdong Province successfully conducted the 2024 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination on a pilot basis in two schools for Hong Kong children in the Mainland cities of the GBA to provide convenience for qualified school candidates.

In addition, Guangdong and Hong Kong will continue to closely collaborate to arrange the participation of Hong Kong teachers and students in Mainland exchange programmes and study tours, in order to deepen their understanding of the country's development, enhance their sense of national identity and promote co-operation and exchanges among schools and teachers of the two places at a more diversified, broader and higher level. With the great support from the Department of Education of Guangdong Province and other relevant authorities, EDB has smoothly launched the Mainland study tours for the subject of Citizenship and Social Development in the 2022/23 school year. Over 48 000 senior secondary students and teachers had participated in the study tours to the Guangdong Province, and positive feedback had been received. The study tours for the 2023/24 school year have been smoothly conducted so far. Besides, EDB organised 25 Mainland study tours for teachers in Guangdong province from April 2023 to July 2024, with about 2 940 participants. The first Teacher Training and Exchange Base was also established in the South China Normal University in Guangdong in January 2024. Furthermore, EDB and the Department of Education of Guangdong Province have been running the Guangdong-Hong Kong Sister Kindergarten Exchange Programme since the 2023/24 school year to strengthen connection between the Mainland and Hong Kong in early childhood education.

Talent Co-operation



On strengthening co-operation in talent exchanges, the current-term HKSAR Government has launched a series of more proactive measures to attract talents. The HKSAR Government will continue to enhance and strengthen Hong Kong's dual roles as an international talent hub and the country's gateway for talent, and discuss with the Guangdong Provincial Government to strengthen co-operation in various aspects to expedite the building of a talent hub in the GBA and promote high-quality development of the GBA and the country.

Guangdong and Hong Kong signed a framework agreement on promoting talent co-operation in January this year and set up a co-ordination mechanism on Guangdong-Hong Kong talent co-operation to further promote the flow of diverse talents in the GBA. This turns over a new chapter for the GBA to attract diverse talents. The HKSAR Government successfully organised the Global Talent Summit • Hong Kong in May this year to promote globally Hong Kong's dual roles as an international talent hub and the country's gateway

for talents. The "9+2" cities in the GBA signed a memorandum of understanding on promoting collaboration on talent services in the GBA to strengthen co-operation in talent attraction, nurturing and exchanges.

Healthcare

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The HKSAR Government announced on February 19 this year that seven medical institutions in the Mainland cities of the GBA have been included in the Elderly Health Care Voucher Greater Bay Area Pilot Scheme (Pilot Scheme), offering eligible Hong Kong elderly persons additional options of services points for using the Elderly Health Care Vouchers (EHCVs) in the GBA. Among the medical institutions included in the Pilot Scheme, five of them provide integrated services (including dental services) which are located in Guangzhou, Nansha, Zhongshan, Dongguan and Shenzhen, while the other two are dental institutions located in Shenzhen, enabling eligible Hong Kong elderly persons to use EHCVs to pay for services received. It is estimated that some 1.7 million eligible Hong Kong elderly persons will benefit from the Pilot Scheme. The coverage of EHCVs extended to include the First Affiliated Hospital, Sun Yat-sen University (FAH-SYSU) in Guangzhou from June 28, offering another service point where eligible Hong Kong elderly persons can use EHCVs for outpatient healthcare services in the GBA. Starting from July 18, the coverage of EHCVs will be further extended to include ZhongshanChenxinghai Hospital of Integrated Traditional Chinese and Western Medicine in Zhongshan. The remaining pilot medical institutions will launch the relevant arrangements from the third quarter of this year.

As regards health and medical innovation, the HKSAR Government will establish the Greater Bay Area International Clinical Trial Institute (GBAICTI) in the Hetao area by the end of 2024. The GBAICTI will provide one-stop clinical trial support services to further enhance the capacity and efficiency of clinical trials in Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government is actively discussing with the Shenzhen Municipal Government to jointly establish a clinical trial collaboration platform in the Hong Kong Park and Shenzhen Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone under the "one zone, two parks" model for the co-ordinated development of clinical trials, with a view to establishing a GBA clinical trial network leveraging a population base of over 86 million for conducting cross-boundary multi-centre clinical trials, and developing the HKSAR into an international health and medical innovation hub in the long run.

Regarding cross-boundary ambulance arrangement, the HKSAR Government is finalising the implementation details of the "Pilot Scheme for Direct Cross-Boundary Ambulance Transfer in the GBA" with the governments of Guangdong and Shenzhen, to enable direct point-to-point transfer of patients with special medical needs from The Hong Kong University-Shenzhen Hospital to public hospitals in Hong Kong without the need to change ambulances at control points.

As regards the development of Chinese medicine (CM), the HKSAR Government has been actively promoting the construction of the GBA CM highlands, and has taken forward work on various fronts, including the

The 24th Plenary held today was co-chaired by the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee, and the Governor of Guangdong Province, Mr Wang Weizhong. Members of the HKSAR delegation included the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Chan Kwok-ki; the Deputy Secretary for Justice, Mr Cheung Kwok-kwan; the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Erick Tsang Kwok-wai; the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui; the Secretary for Health, Professor Lo Chung-mau; the Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Mr Lam Sai-hung; the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Professor Sun Dong; the Acting Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Dr Bernard Chan; and the Acting Secretary for Environment and Ecology, Miss Diane Wong.

Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, Mr Yin Zonghua, and Member of the Office Leadership of the Hong Kong and Macao Work Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, Mr Xiang Bin, also attended the meeting as special guests.

