

# Appointments to Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification announced

The Government announced today (December 28) that the Chief Executive had appointed Professor Wong Wing-tak as the Chairman of the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) for two years with effect from January 1, 2022.

Professor Wong is the Deputy President and Provost of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU). He is an accomplished scientist with outstanding research achievements, and is currently Chair Professor of Chemical Technology. He was a key driver in setting up PolyU's Food Safety and Technology Research Centre in 2011 to address the societal need for professional advice on food-related issues. Since 2020, he has been serving as a member of HKCTC.

The Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Mr Alfred Sit, welcomed the appointment of Professor Wong as the new Chairman of the Council, and said that the Council would benefit from Professor Wong's ample leadership experience and expert insights in chemical technology.

Mr Sit also thanked the outgoing Chairman, Professor Albert Yu Cheung-hoi, for his contribution to the Council in the past six years.

"Professor Yu has made remarkable contributions through steering the Council to explore new development opportunities for the testing and certification sector and build up an environment more conducive to the development of the sector. Under the chairmanship of Professor Yu, enhanced efforts have been made to facilitate the sector to explore opportunities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. New initiatives have been rolled out to help build up a talent pool for the sector. I am thankful for his guidance and wise counsel to the Council," Mr Sit said.

The Government also announced the appointment of eight new Council members, and the re-appointment of eight Council members for the same two-year term.

Mr Sit also thanked the six outgoing members for their valuable contribution to the Council's work. They are Mr Raymond Chan Kin-sek, Mr Ho Chi-shing, Mr Harry Yeung Chi-wah, Dr Raymond Yung Wai-hung, Ms Karen Tang Mui-fun and Mr Patrick Lee Sai-yin.

The membership of the Council for the new term is as follows:

Professor Wong Wing-tak (Chairman)  
Ms Bess Choi Siu-fong\*  
Mr Martin Fan\*  
Dr Gray Ho Koon-sing\*  
Ms Denise Hou Yuen-chi\*

Mr Kenneth Lam Kar-kin  
Ms Stephanie Lam Yuen-shan  
Dr Ann Leung  
Mr Kenneth Leung Yuk-wai, JP  
Dr Wingco Lo Kam-wing, JP  
Mr Robert Andrew Lui Chi-wang\*  
Mr Joseph Poon Tim-leung\*  
Dr Fanny Tang Wai-fan  
Ms Pearl Tse Pui-pui  
Mr Basil Wai Siu-bong  
Ms Gilly Wong Fung-han\*  
Mr Wilson Wong Wing-wa\*  
Executive Director of Hong Kong Productivity Council or representative  
Executive Director of Hong Kong Trade Development Council or representative  
Executive Director of Vocational Training Council or representative  
Government Chemist or representative  
Commissioner for Innovation and Technology or representative

\* Newly appointed members

The Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification was established in September 2009 to advise the Government on the overall development strategy of the testing and certification sector.

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## **Import of poultry meat and products from Leiria District in Portugal suspended**

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (December 28) that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in Leiria District in Portugal, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the area with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that according to the Census and Statistics Department, no poultry meat or eggs were imported into Hong Kong from Portugal in the first nine months of this year.

"The CFS has contacted the Portuguese authority over the issue and will closely monitor information issued by the OIE and the relevant authorities on the avian influenza outbreaks. Appropriate action will be taken in response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.

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## Exchange Fund Bills tender results

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

### Exchange Fund Bills tender results

Tender date : December 28, 2021  
Paper on offer : EF Bills  
Issue number : Q2152  
Issue date : December 29, 2021  
Maturity date : March 30, 2022  
Amount applied : HK\$145,245 MN  
Amount allotted : HK\$62,417 MN  
Average yield accepted : 0.19 PCT  
Highest yield accepted : 0.21 PCT  
Pro rata ratio\* : About 39 PCT  
Average tender yield : 0.22 PCT

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Tender date : December 28, 2021  
Paper on offer : EF Bills  
Issue number : H2181  
Issue date : December 29, 2021  
Maturity date : June 29, 2022  
Amount applied : HK\$34,420 MN  
Amount allotted : HK\$18,200 MN  
Average yield accepted : 0.22 PCT  
Highest yield accepted : 0.27 PCT  
Pro rata ratio\* : About 26 PCT  
Average tender yield : 0.27 PCT

\*"Pro rata ratio" refers to the average percentage of allotment with respect to each tender participant's tendered amount at the "highest yield accepted" level.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority tenders to be held in the week beginning January 3, 2022:

Tender date : January 4, 2022  
Paper on offer : EF Bills  
Issue number : Q2201

Issue date : January 5, 2022  
Maturity date : April 6, 2022  
Tenor : 91 Days  
Amount on offer : HK\$69,392 MN

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Tender date : January 4, 2022  
Paper on offer : EF Bills  
Issue number : H2230  
Issue date : January 5, 2022  
Maturity date : July 6, 2022  
Tenor : 182 Days  
Amount on offer : HK\$18,800 MN

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## [Appointment of Hong Kong, China's Representative to ABAC announced](#)

â€‹The Government today (December 28) announced that the Chief Executive has re-appointed Ms Marjorie Yang, Chairman of Esquel Group, as Hong Kong, China's Representative to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Advisory Council (ABAC), for a term of two years commencing January 1, 2022.

"I am very grateful to Ms Yang for continuing to represent Hong Kong, China, in ABAC. I am sure that her wealth of business experience will inject further impetus into the work of ABAC," the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, said.

ABAC was established in 1996 as a permanent business advisory body to provide advice to APEC on business sector priorities. Hong Kong, China, has appointed three Representatives and two Alternate Representatives to ABAC. Currently, Mr Nicholas Ho, Chairman of hpa (Ho & Partners Architects Engineers and Development Consultants Limited), and Ms Mary Huen, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Hong Kong, and Cluster Chief Executive Officer (Hong Kong, Taiwan & Macau) of Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, are the other two Representatives. Mr Spencer Fung, Group Executive Chairman of Li & Fung, and Ms Nisa Leung, Managing Partner of Qiming Venture Partners, are the Alternate Representatives.

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# Measures to assist foreign domestic helpers and employers to cope with COVID-19 pandemic extended

The Government today (December 28) announced that the measures to assist foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) and their employers to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic will be extended with immediate effect.

## Extension of validity period of existing contracts

The Government will continue to implement the previous measure to enable employers to extend the validity period of the existing contracts with their outgoing FDHs. For all FDH contracts that will expire on or before March 31, 2022, the Commissioner for Labour has given in-principle consent for extending the employment period stated in Clause 2 of the Standard Employment Contract for a maximum period of six months, on the basis that such variation is agreed upon by both the employer and the FDH. However, applications for further extension of those contracts which have already been extended under the previous flexibility arrangement, including that announced on September 28, 2021, will not be considered.

If arrangements cannot be made for a newly hired FDH to come to Hong Kong within the above-mentioned six-month extended period and the employer needs to continue to employ his/her FDH beyond the six-month extended period, the employer should consider applying for contract renewal with the existing FDH.

## Deferral of return to the place of origin

Under the prevailing mechanism, an FDH on a renewed contract with the same employer, or due to start a new contract with a new employer upon the expiry of an existing contract, may apply to the Immigration Department (ImmD) for deferring return to the place of origin for not more than one year after the existing contract ends, subject to the agreement of his/her current employer or new employer.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government will further extend the current flexibility arrangement. If an FDH is unable to return to his/her place of origin within the aforementioned one-year period, he/she may, upon agreement with his/her employer, apply to the ImmD for a further extension of the limit of stay until the end of his/her contract such that he/she may return to the place of origin within that period. Same as applications for contract renewal with the same employer, such applications are acceptable within eight weeks prior to the expiry of the existing contract.

The Government reminds employers and FDHs that the above flexibility arrangement must be mutually agreed between the employer and the FDH, and that the requirement that FDHs should return to their place of origin

continues to be in place. Employers should arrange for their FDHs to return to the place of origin within the extended limit of stay.

The Government will continue to closely monitor the situation and review the above measures and flexibility arrangements as and when necessary.

To tie in with the disease prevention measures and reduce the flow of people, the Government appeals to members of the public to submit visa applications for FDHs and further employment of FDHs through online means or the ImmD mobile application. Apart from setting up a dedicated "Online Services for Foreign Domestic Helpers" webpage at [www.immd.gov.hk/fdh](http://www.immd.gov.hk/fdh), the ImmD further enhanced the visa application service through better use of digital technology and launched electronic services for visa application and an "e-Visa" arrangement on December 28. Upon approval of their applications, the applicants may pay the visa fee through various means and download the "e-Visa" on their personal mobile devices or print the "e-Visa". Please refer to the relevant press release for details ([www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/22/P2021122200489.htm](http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202112/22/P2021122200489.htm)). Members of the public may also enquire about application status and submit supplementary documents and notification of premature termination of employment contract via the above dedicated webpage. There is no need for them to attend an office of the ImmD in person to go through the formalities, which is both convenient and time-saving while reducing the need to travel and contributing to the efforts to fight the virus together.

The Government also urges employers and their FDHs to be mindful of the limit of stay and the passport validity of the FDHs and arrange for application for visas and replacement of passports in advance.

For enquiries on employment rights and benefits of FDHs, please contact the LD at the dedicated FDH hotline at 2157 9537 (manned by 1823) or by email to [fdh-enquiry@labour.gov.hk](mailto:fdh-enquiry@labour.gov.hk). The dedicated FDH Portal ([www.fdh.labour.gov.hk](http://www.fdh.labour.gov.hk)) set up by the LD also provides information and useful links relating to the employment of FDHs. For enquiries on FDH visa applications, please contact the ImmD by calling the enquiry hotline at 2824 6111 or by sending email to [enquiry@immd.gov.hk](mailto:enquiry@immd.gov.hk).