

CAD conducts second phase of trial flight inspection by small unmanned aircraft to enhance efficiency (with photos)

The Civil Aviation Department (CAD) conducted the second phase of a trial flight inspection by small unmanned aircraft (SUA) on May 9, 10 and 13.

According to the standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), regular flight inspections on ground navigational aids, such as the Instrument Landing System (ILS), are mandatory to ensure related operations are in compliance with ICAO requirements. The flight inspections for Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) have been conducted with results certified by the internationally recognised flight inspection aircraft and professional crew from the Flight Inspection Center (FIC) of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC). To enhance efficiency in flight inspections, the first phase of trial flight inspection by SUA, spearheaded by the CAD, was conducted successfully last August to testify to the feasibility of using SUA to carry out part of the flight inspection on the ILS and Airfield Ground Lighting at HKIA.

Upon the successful completion of the first phase of the trial, the CAD conducted the second phase of the trial over the past few days. In addition to conducting more flight inspections by SUA on the ILS of the northern runway at HKIA, part of the flight inspection was also conducted by SUA on the Doppler Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Radio Range and Distance Measuring Equipment (DVOR/DME) located on Tung Lung Island. This equipment provides bearing and distance information to assist aircraft in navigating along flight routes. The trial confirmed that carrying out part of the flight inspection by SUA on navigation equipment at remote outstations offers greater flexibility in flight manipulation, more efficiency in deployment and can achieve zero carbon emissions as compared to traditional flight inspection aircraft. Most importantly, the inspection results also align with those obtained from traditional flight inspection aircraft.

Drawing on the successful experience of the two trials, the CAD will continue to collaborate with the CAAC FIC and relevant stakeholders to conduct further studies on the utilisation of SUA to carry out part of the flight inspection. The CAD will also monitor closely the development of relevant ICAO standards and guidelines to leverage the benefits of SUA in conducting flight inspections with greater efficiency and flexibility.



[Transcript of remarks by SLW on Social Workers Registration Board governance at media session](#)

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr Chris Sun, on the governance of the Social Workers Registration Board at a media session this afternoon (May 13) after attending a meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services:

Reporter: Secretary, are there any plans to change the composition of the Social Workers Registration Board, by increasing the ratio of appointed members? Also, how would you respond to the Board Chairperson's comments that existing mechanism has been effective enough in handling registration regarding offenders of serious offences?

Secretary for Labour and Welfare: I pointed out very clearly in the article I published earlier about my serious concerns that the Social Workers Registration Board is deviating from what it should be doing under the law and what it has been doing right now undermines public interest and also the credibility and professionalism of social workers. There is no misunderstanding. I have complete information about what is going on in the Board. Based on my clear understanding and my serious concerns about what is going on there, I have pointed out very clearly that we have to improve the governance of the Board, so that the Board will in future deal with issues concerning registration of social workers as well as disciplinary matters concerning social workers in a manner that is commensurate with the need to ensure that public interest is given priority and also the professionalism and credibility of social workers is being upheld.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

Regular quotas for Hong Kong cross-boundary non-commercial private cars using HZMB to Macao open for application

The Transport Department (TD) announced today (May 13) that 1 000 regular quotas for Hong Kong cross-boundary non-commercial private cars using the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) to Macao (Hong Kong quotas) are now allocated through open application.

"The 1 000 quotas allocated from July 2021 will expire on June 30, 2024. The 1 000 quotas are reopened for application, half of which are for company applicants and half are for individual applicants. The quotas are valid for no more than three years until June 30, 2027. All eligible parties, including existing quota holders of the batch, may submit applications. Quota holders are expected to be able to travel between Hong Kong and Macao via the HZMB starting from July 1, 2024, at the earliest," a TD spokesman said.

The eligibility criteria for quota applications remain unchanged. Company quotas are open for companies registered in both Hong Kong and Macao, or companies registered in Hong Kong that are associated with another company registered in Macao, while individual quotas are open to permanent residents of Hong Kong employed with remunerations in Macao or have established a registered company in Macao. Details of the application criteria and licensing requirements are available in the Annex and on the TD's website. Private cars allocated with Hong Kong quotas will be permitted to access the city of Macao multiple times via the HZMB. Quotas will be reallocated upon expiry through open applications such that more could benefit from the scheme. The reallocation exercise will not affect the validity of Hong Kong quotas in other batches.

Eligible parties may apply for the Hong Kong quotas through the GovHK website (www.gov.hk/regularquotahktomacao) from today until 5.15pm on May 25, 2024.

To enhance the application process, the TD will simplify some of the application documents for the Hong Kong quotas, which include waivers of documentary proof of the relationship between the applicants and the designated drivers and the taxation proof for applicants of company quotas. For application procedures and details, please visit the TD's website (www.td.gov.hk/en/public_services/licences_and_permits/closed_road_permit_for_cross_boundary_vehicles/rq_hk_private_cars_to_macao_access_city_centre/index.html) or call 2804 2600.

Applications for new niches at Wo Hop Shek Columbarium and Cape Collinson-San Ha Columbarium open today

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will allocate some 18 000 new extendable niches at Wo Hop Shek Columbarium Phase VI in Fanling and Cape Collinson-San Ha Columbarium in Eastern District, which are open for applications from today (May 13) to June 12.

An FEHD spokesman said, "For this niche allocation exercise, a total of 8 040 extendable niches at Wo Hop Shek Columbarium Phase VI will be allocated, including 8 000 standard niches (4 000 smoke-free niches and 4 000 non-smoke-free niches) and 40 large niches (20 smoke-free niches and 20 non-smoke-free niches). As for Cape Collinson-San Ha Columbarium, a total of 10 060 extendable niches including 10 000 standard niches (5 000 smoke-free niches and 5 000 non-smoke-free niches) and 60 large niches (30 smoke-free niches and 30 non-smoke-free niches) will be allocated."

The spokesman added, "Since the quantity of each type of niche (standard/large, smoke-free/non-smoke-free) available for allocation in the two columbaria is different, the chance of successful allocation varies. When deciding the type of niche to be selected for application, applicants should make reference to relevant information in the application form for assessing the chance of a successful allocation. In addition, applicants opting for a niche in Cape Collinson-San Ha Columbarium could also opt to accept the same type of niche remaining in Wo Hop Shek Columbarium Phase VI as a backup choice if the allocation of their first choice is unsuccessful."

Members of the public can visit the FEHD's website (www.fehd.gov.hk) for details, make an online application or download the application forms. Leaflets and application forms are also available at the department's Hong Kong or Kowloon Cemeteries and Crematoria Office, District Environmental Hygiene Offices and Home Affairs Enquiry Centres of the Home Affairs Department. In addition, members of the public may call hotline 2841 9111 or email to apply_newniche@feh.gov.hk for enquiries and request application forms by fax (2333 1716).

The spokesman encouraged applicants to apply online so as to avoid postal delay. They can also receive an acknowledgement receipt with a case number shortly after the submission, thus facilitating the follow-up of the application in the future. If the applicant is the same person who has applied for cremation service for the deceased, it is more convenient to submit an online application through the "iAM Smart" app without the need to attach copies of the required documents. Applications can also be submitted by the above-mentioned fax or email, by post or in person to the FEHD Hong

Kong or the Kowloon Cemeteries and Crematoria Office.

Information on the Cemeteries and Crematoria Offices and Public Niche Allocation Office of FEHD is as follows:

Hong Kong Cemeteries and Crematoria Office

Address: 1J Wong Nai Chung Road, Happy Valley, Hong Kong

Tel: 2570 4318

Fax: 2591 1879

Kowloon Cemeteries and Crematoria Office

Address: Upper Ground Floor, 6 Cheong Hang Road, Hung Hom, Kowloon

Tel: 2365 5321

Fax: 2176 4963

Public Niche Allocation Office

Address: Units 3501-3511 and 3520-3525, 35/F, Tower 1, Metroplaza, 223 Hing Fong Road, Kwai Fong, NT

Tel: 2330 5635

Fax: 2333 1716

The spokesman reminded those who wish to apply for allocation of the above niches for the deceased to submit the completed application forms together with the copies of required documents on or before June 12 to avoid missing this application period.

[Icelandic piano star VÃkingur Ãlafsson to perform Bach's monumental work in Hong Kong in June \(with photos\)](#)

World-renowned Icelandic pianist VÃkingur Ólafsson will visit Hong Kong in June to stage a recital in the Great Music 2024, presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). He will perform one work, the Bach classic "Goldberg Variations, BWV 988", in an interpretation accomplished with technical virtuosity and unique musical perspective, while showcasing his extraordinary charm.

Ólafsson dedicated his 2023/24 season to a "Goldberg Variations" world tour, and brought Bach's masterpiece to major concert halls around the world, including London's Southbank Centre, New York's Carnegie Hall, Wiener Konzerthaus, Philharmonie de Paris and Tokyo's Suntory Hall, to name a few. This time, he will stage his performance at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre to

share this iconic work of Bach with music fans in the city.

As one of the most sought-after musicians of today, Ólafsson has a remarkable piano technique, with an unusual vision in arranging repertoire. His multiple awards include Opus Klassik Instrumentalist of the Year and Confederation of Scandinavian Societies' International Nordic Person of the Year in 2023, a Rolf Schock Prize for Music in 2022, Gramophone's Artist of the Year in 2019 and more.

The "Piano Recital by Víkingur Ólafsson" will be staged at 8pm on June 11 (Tuesday) at the Concert Hall of Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Tickets priced at \$250, \$350, \$450, \$550 and \$650 are now available at URBTIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone bookings, please call 3166 1288. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7321 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/music/programs_1667.html.

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A pre-concert talk entitled "Explore Bach's 'Goldberg Variations' " (in Cantonese) will be held at 6.45pm on June 11 at Level 4 Foyer Reception Area, Auditoria Building, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. The speaker will be music educator Calvin Lai. Admission is free, with limited seats available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The LCSd will present its Great Music 2024 from May to November, with acclaimed musicians and orchestras from all over the world as well as a local talented music producer performing in a musical extravaganza series. The programme enables audiences to feel the city's arts and cultural buzz through music, showcasing the unique charm of Hong Kong as a metropolis where East meets West. For more details, please visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/music/groups_1682.html.

