

HKPL to present "Exhibition on Dr. Louis CHA Collection"

The Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) will hold the "Exhibition on Dr. Louis CHA Collection" from tomorrow (May 1) to August 31 to display the book collection of Dr Louis Cha (Jin Yong) at the Rare Book Reading Room on 8/F of the Hong Kong Central Library (HKCL) in remembrance of this master of martial arts novels. Admission is free. The exhibition is one of the programmes of the Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival 2024 and the Chinese Culture Promotion Series of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD).

Dr Cha's love for diverse forms of literature was apparent in his works, which showcase a one-of-a-kind writing style. The martial arts novel series created by him are highly popular and their readers are across the globe. His works cover various fields of knowledge, including ancient text, art, astronomy and geography. Through his delicate portrayal of the characters' emotions and relationships, Dr Cha created a legendary world of martial arts.

In support of the Documents Collection Campaign of the HKPL, Dr Cha's family generously donated to the HKCL books dearly kept by Dr Cha for years. Books on display at the exhibition will include rare books on the topic of classical Chinese prose and the collected works of a renowned poet in the Qing dynasty. There are also books of Buddhist classics and scriptures, Chinese literary titles published in the 1930s, as well as invaluable books on the board game of go. Through the reading resources of Dr Cha, visitors can gain insights about how Dr Cha conceived his martial arts stories.

In addition, a subject talk on "Multi-dimensional Reading of Jin Yong's Martial Arts Novels" hosted by Assistant Professor of Hong Kong Chu Hai College and Appointed Researcher of the Hong Kong Heritage Museum Dr Clarence Yau will be held on July 5 at the Lecture Theatre on G/F of the HKCL to explore the martial arts world in Jin Yong's novels from different perspectives. The talk will be conducted in Cantonese with free admission. For enquiries, please call 2921 0285.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr Cha. The LCSD is organising programmes that are related to the martial arts novels of Dr Cha, which are "A Path to Glory – Jin Yong's Centennial Memorial, Sculpted by Ren Zhe" exhibition and "Arts or Action, Why Not Both? Classic Martial Arts Drama Costumes and Props Exhibition", as well as the "ART!ON POP" Concert to be held in July. A reading corner is also set up in the exhibition gallery of the "A Path to Glory – Jin Yong's Centennial Memorial, Sculpted by Ren Zhe" at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum for visitors to revisit the fascinating plots in Dr Cha's novels through enjoying the collections or audiobooks of Dr Cha's martial arts novels of the HKPL.

Various public libraries will also display and introduce to users the library collection and resources related to martial arts novels. For details,

please visit the website of the Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival 2024 (www.pcf.gov.hk/en/programmes/exhibitionondrlouischacollection).

The LCSD presented the first Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival last year to great acclaim. This year, the second edition features "Arts & Action" as its theme, taking audiences on a journey through time to explore the charm of Hong Kong's pop culture. It encompasses both "Arts" (creative works) and "Action" (martial arts), an attempt to show the dynamic inheritance, diffusion, integration and breakthroughs within Hong Kong's pop culture. The event lineup offers a diverse range of formats including thematic exhibitions, film screenings, stage performances and outreach activities, and its rich content spans across literature, various art forms and martial arts, clearly showcasing how Hong Kong's vibrant and diverse pop culture stands out from the rest. For more information, please visit www.pcf.gov.hk/en.

The LCSD has long been promoting Chinese history and culture through organising an array of programmes and activities to enable the public to learn more about the broad and profound Chinese culture. For more information, please visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/ccpo/index.html.

[Appointments to Public Libraries Advisory Committee](#)

The Government announced today (April 30) the appointment of the membership of the Public Libraries Advisory Committee (PLAC) for the term from May 1, 2024, to April 30, 2026.

PLAC advises the Government on the development of public libraries in Hong Kong, including the formulation of strategies and measures for the development of library facilities and services; the role, functions and management of the Hong Kong Central Library; and the encouragement of community support and partnership with different sectors in promoting reading, lifelong learning and literary arts.

The membership list of the new term of PLAC is as follows:

Chairperson: Ms Shirley Marie Therese Loo*
Vice-chairperson: Ms Linda Choy Siu-min*
Members: Ms Joanne Chan Jo-win*
Ms Chan Yuk-yin
Dr Felix Chow Bok-hin
Mr Choy Sai-hung
Professor Chui Yat-hung

Ms Ho Ka-man
Ms Hsu Siu-man*
Professor Morris Jong Siu-yung*
Mr Edmond Lai Shiao-bun
Ms Tendy Lam Pui-tung
Ms Elaine Leung Wai-yin*
Ms Susanna Lo Sui-lan*
Ms Erica Ma Yun*
Dr Rizwan Ullah
Mr Alvin Wan Chi-lun
Dr Shirley Wong Chiu-wing
Dr Jimmy Wong Kam-yiu
Ms Wong May-kwan*
Representative of the Culture, Sports and
Tourism Bureau
Representative of the Education Bureau
Representative of the Government Records
Service
Representative of the Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

* Newly appointed Chairperson, Vice-chairperson and members

A spokesman for the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau thanked the outgoing Chairman, Mr Sunny Lee Wai-kyong, and the five outgoing members (Mr Charles Chan Kin-hung, Ms Cheung Sze-wing, Mr Chow Tsz-lit, Mr Brian Kwok Sze-hang and Ms Lam Yan-tung) for their valued support and contributions to the work of PLAC over the past years.

Chief Executive in Council accepts recommendations on enhancing review mechanism of Statutory Minimum Wage

The Chief Executive (CE) in Council has accepted the recommendations of the Minimum Wage Commission (MWC) on enhancing the review mechanism of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW). The recommendations include reviewing the SMW rate once a year (Annual Review), adopting a formula for implementing the Annual Review and reviewing the aforesaid new review mechanism five to 10 years after its implementation.

After extensive consultations and making reference to experience in reviewing the SMW rate, the MWC recommended implementing the Annual Review,

which would allow closer alignment of the SMW rate with socio-economic changes and safeguard the income of grassroots employees more effectively.

The formula proposed by the MWC comprises two indicators, namely inflation and the Economic Growth factor. The former ensures that the rate of adjustment in the SMW will not fall below the headline Consumer Price Index (A) inflation, so as to maintain the purchasing power of the SMW and safeguard the employment income of grassroots employees. The Economic Growth factor enables the rate of increase in the SMW to be suitably higher than inflation when the Hong Kong economy performs well (i.e. economic growth in the latest year is higher than the trend growth in the latest decade).

The Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr Chris Sun, said he is very pleased with the MWC's accomplishment in the historic and challenging mission of studying enhancements to the review mechanism of the SMW. He paid warm tribute to the Chairperson of the MWC, Ms Priscilla Wong, for her exemplary leadership and all MWC members for their untiring efforts and sterling contributions.

Mr Sun said, "Having carefully considered the MWC's study report, the Government is of the view that the MWC has ably discharged its function. The recommendations of the MWC have struck an appropriate balance between the objectives of forestalling excessively low wages and minimising the loss of low-paid jobs, while giving due regard to sustaining Hong Kong's economic growth and competitiveness. The Government agrees that the adoption of a formula for adjusting the SMW rate will enhance predictability and transparency, thereby reducing the contention of the community over the rate of each SMW adjustment, and helping foster harmonious labour relations. The Government also believes that the new review mechanism is in line with the overall interests of Hong Kong."

The first SMW rate derived under the new review mechanism will take effect on May 1, 2026. The Government will thrash out the arrangements for implementing the new review mechanism and announce them in due course. Moreover, in accordance with the requirements of the Minimum Wage Ordinance (Cap. 608), the CE will require the MWC to submit the next recommendation report on the SMW rate on or before October 31 this year. The next SMW rate recommended by the MWC will take effect on May 1, 2025.

In January 2023, the CE tasked the MWC to study how to enhance the review mechanism of the SMW, including the review cycle, how to improve efficiency, and balancing a host of factors such as the minimum wage level and sustained economic development. The MWC submitted the Study Report on Enhancing the Review Mechanism of the Statutory Minimum Wage to the Government on October 31 the same year. The Report has been uploaded to the MWC website (www.mwc.org.hk).

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 is 106.3 (same as yesterday's index).

Import of poultry meat and products from Newaygo County of State of Michigan in US suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (April 30) that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in Newaygo County of the State of Michigan in the United States (US), 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, Hong Kong imported about 16 480 tonnes of chilled and frozen poultry meat and about 7.73 million poultry eggs from the US in the first three months of this year.

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