

Tender period extended for remaining works of Infrastructure Works for Tseung Kwan O Stage I Landfill Site

In response to requests from tenderers, the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) today (November 29) announced that the tender period for the contract for Tseung Kwan O Further Development – Infrastructure Works for Tseung Kwan O Stage I Landfill Site – Remaining Works (Contract No. ED/2019/01) would be extended to noon on December 27.

The CEDD invited tenders for the contract on October 11. The original tender closing date was noon on December 6.

The extension of the tender period was gazetted today. Details of the tender notice are available on the CEDD's website (www.cedd.gov.hk/eng/tender-notice/contracts/tender-notice/index.html).

The CEDD has appointed AECOM Asia Company Limited as the consultant to design and supervise the works. For enquiries, please call the company at 3922 9000 during office hours.

Cirque Mechanics to perform “Pedal Punk” in December

Cirque Mechanics from the United States will perform "Pedal Punk" in December, bringing a fun-filled show to Hong Kong that is suitable for audiences ages 3 and above.

The stories that make up "Pedal Punk" are told through circus acrobatics, mechanical wonders and a bit of clowning around. Audiences will experience the excitement, artistry and surprises that occur when a wacky bike shop mechanic interacts with cyclists and bikes, ultimately repairing more than broken bicycle parts. "Pedal Punk" promises to provide an entertaining acrobatic experience for audiences looking for fun and excitement.

Founded in 2004, Cirque Mechanics quickly established itself as a premiere American circus, with its unique approach to performance, lively storytelling and innovative mechanical staging. Although inspired by the modern circus, Cirque Mechanics finds its roots in the mechanical and its heart in the stories of American ingenuity.

Details of the performances are as follows:

December 26 to 28 (Thursday to Saturday), 8pm
Arena, Queen Elizabeth Stadium
Tickets: \$160, \$220, \$300 and \$380

Presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, "Pedal Punk" is one of the attractions of the "Cheers!" Series. Tickets are now available at URB TIX (www.urbtix.hk). Children must be accompanied by a parent or an adult, and one ticket per person is required regardless of age (including very young children). For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7323 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/multi_arts/programs_880.html.

A meet-the-artist session (in English) will be held after the performance on December 27 (Friday). Members of the audience are welcome to stay behind for the session.

Thirty-one persons arrested during anti-illegal worker operations

The Immigration Department (ImmD) mounted territory-wide anti-illegal worker operations codenamed "Twilight" from November 25 to yesterday (November 28). A total of 23 suspected illegal workers and eight suspected employers were arrested.

During the operations, ImmD Task Force officers raided 36 target locations including a bar, a company, a commercial building, garbage collection depots, a gym room, an industrial building, a logistics centre, a massage parlour, premises under renovation, a recycling site, restaurants and a wet market. The suspected illegal workers comprised 16 men and seven women, aged 24 to 62. Among them, a woman was suspected of using and being in possession of a forged Hong Kong identity card. Meanwhile, six men and two women, aged 34 to 74, were suspected of employing the suspected illegal workers.

"Any person who contravenes a condition of stay in force in respect of him shall be guilty of an offence. Also, visitors are not allowed to take employment in Hong Kong, whether paid or unpaid, without the permission of the Director of Immigration. Offenders are liable to prosecution and upon conviction face a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to two years' imprisonment. Aiders and abettors are also liable to prosecution and penalties," an ImmD spokesman said.

The spokesman warned that, as stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, illegal immigrants or people who are the subject of a removal order or a deportation order are prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining in any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. The Court of Appeal has issued a guideline ruling that a sentence of 15 months' imprisonment should be applied in such cases. It is an offence to use or possess a forged Hong Kong identity card or a Hong Kong identity card related to another person. Offenders are liable to prosecution and a maximum penalty of a \$100,000 fine and up to 10 years' imprisonment.

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for three years and a fine of \$350,000. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence. According to the court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card. The maximum penalty for failing to inspect such a document is imprisonment for one year and a fine of \$150,000.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure, conduct initial screenings of vulnerable persons, including illegal workers, illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers, who are arrested during any operation with a view to ascertaining whether they are trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threats and coercion in the recruitment phase and the nature of exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various forms of support and assistance, including urgent intervention, medical services, counselling, shelter, temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments.

[Research Grants Council to present](#)

public lecture on dementia on December 7

The following is issued on behalf of the University Grants Committee:

The Research Grants Council (RGC) will present its third public lecture this year under the theme "Challenge of Population Ageing: Dementia" on December 7 (Saturday) at the Hong Kong Central Library.

The RGC has invited Professor of the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Professor Timothy Kwok, and Associate Professor of the Department of Social Work of the Hong Kong Baptist University, Dr Young Kim-wan, to share their research findings and knowledge with the public. Details are as follows:

Time: 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre, G/F, Hong Kong Central Library

Language: Cantonese

Admission is free and on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dementia is a major cause of dependency in old age. It can be delayed or prevented by physical and social activities and a healthy diet. Mind and body exercises, e.g. Tai Chi and cognitive training can improve cognitive functions in elderly people. Vitamin B12 deficiency can contribute to dementia, but its supplement in those without such deficiency does not improve cognitive functions. Folic acid supplements in combination with vitamin B12 may prevent cognitive decline, but only in those who can metabolise it, and it may interfere with the actions of aspirin. Professor Kwok will deliver a talk entitled "Prevention of dementia" to the public.

There are around 100 000 elderly people with dementia in Hong Kong, and the number is expected to escalate to 290 000 by the year 2036. Currently, pharmacological treatments for dementia have been found to have a minimal effect in arresting cognitive decline and loss of memory. On the other hand, cognitive stimulation therapy has been developed in the United Kingdom and implemented successfully across different cultures and societies, including Hong Kong. Local research evidence supports the idea that cognitive stimulation therapy is effective in improving cognitive functions of elderly people with mild to moderate dementia. In his talk entitled "The positive effects of cognitive stimulation therapy for elderly with dementia", Dr Young will introduce cognitive stimulation therapy in local practice.

The public lectures of the RGC aim at arousing public interest in local research developments. Since 2009, the RGC has invited numerous leading scholars to speak at these lectures. For enquiries, please call 2524 3987 or visit the University Grants Committee webpage (www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/rgc/lectures/lectures.html).

Appointments to Social Welfare Advisory Committee announced

The Government today (November 29) announced the appointment of five new members and re-appointment of five incumbent members to the Social Welfare Advisory Committee (SWAC) for a term of two years with effect from December 1.

The five new members are Mr Frederick Lai Wing-hoi, Professor Petrus Ng Yat-nam, Dr Pan Pey-chyou, Dr Ricky Szeto Wing-fu and Professor Frances Wong Kam-yuet.

Mr Lai is the Director of the Social Work Services Division of Caritas – Hong Kong. He is also a member of the Social Work Training Fund Committee and the Advisory Committee on Mental Health.

Professor Ng is the Head and Professor of the Department of Social Work of Hong Kong Baptist University. He is also a member of the Advisory Committee on Social Work Training and Manpower Planning.

Dr Pan is the Honorary Consultant in Psychiatry of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital. He is also a member of the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Advisory Committee.

Dr Szeto is the General Manager and Executive Director of a private company. He is also a member of the Lump Sum Grant Steering Committee, the Advisory Committee on Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities and the Employees Compensation Assistance Fund Board.

Professor Wong is a Professor of the School of Nursing at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. She is also a member of the Steering Committee on Primary Healthcare Development and the Nursing Council of Hong Kong.

The five re-appointed incumbent members are Mr Armstrong Lee Hon-cheung, Ms Anthea Lo Wing-sze, Dr Gary Ng Ka-wing, Ms Cindy Pun Siu-fung and Dr Janice Tsang Wing-hang.

The Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Dr Law Chi-kwong, welcomed the appointments and thanked the five outgoing members, Mr Ip Wai-ming, Dr Annissa Lui Wai-ling, Mr Daryl Ng Win-kong, Professor Steven Ngai Sek-yum and Dr Loretta Yam Yin-chun, for their valuable contributions to the SWAC.

The SWAC reviews social welfare services from time to time and advises the Government on all matters of social welfare policy.

The membership list of the SWAC with effect from December 1, 2019 is as follows:

Chairman

Mr Lester Garson Huang

Non-official members

Dr Bai Xue

Ms Sylvia Chan May-kuen

Dr Gary Cheng Faat-ting

Miss Cheung Sze-wing

Mr Manohar Thakurdas Chugh

Mr Andy Ho Wing-cheong

Mr Anthony Kwan Wai-ming

Mr Frederick Lai Wing-hoi

Dr Lam James Joseph

Mr Armstrong Lee Hon-cheung

Ms Anthea Lo Wing-sze

Dr Gary Ng Ka-wing

Professor Petrus Ng Yat-nam

Dr Pan Pey-chyou

Ms Cindy Pun Siu-fung

Dr Ricky Szeto Wing-fu

Dr Janice Tsang Wing-hang

Ms Eva Wong Ching-hung

Professor Frances Wong Kam-yuet

Mr Anthony Wong Kin-wai

Ms Amarantha Yip Yun-wan