<u>Government announces list of third</u> <u>cycle designated quarantine hotels</u>

The Government announced today (March 19) the list of designated quarantine hotels for the third cycle. A total of 30 hotels will provide about 8 300 rooms in the new cycle, with the contract period running from April 21 to June 19.

A Government spokesman said, "The Government issued letters to some 2 000 hotels with valid hotel or guesthouse licences on March 4 to invite applications for enlisting as designated quarantine hotels in the third cycle. We have received applications from 70 hotels.

"Upon assessment, 30 hotels were shortlisted as designated quarantine hotels for the third cycle (see list at Annex) to provide about 8 300 rooms of various types and rates for selection by arrivals in Hong Kong from places outside China. Twenty-nine hotels on the list were designated hotels in the second cycle, while one of them is a new participant."

The spokesman added, "We will continue to provide more hotels offering lower room rates in this new cycle after considering the market demand for hotels offering different rates. The number of hotels offering room rates at \$500 or below will increase from 11 to 13 to provide more than 2 800 rooms. This represents 34 per cent of the total number of rooms in the third cycle. The number of rooms with rates at \$1,000 or below accounts for 84 per cent, providing about 7 000 rooms in total."

To further prevent importation of COVID-19 cases and reduce contact between arrivals from overseas and the local community, the Government fully implemented the Designated Quarantine Hotel Scheme and the Designated Transportation Scheme on December 22, 2020, requiring all travellers arriving from places outside China to undergo compulsory quarantine for 21 days at designated quarantine hotels according to the specifications under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation (Cap. 599H). The first cycle of the Scheme ended on February 19, with 36 hotels providing about 12 000 rooms. In the second cycle, 36 hotels were selected as designated hotels, providing about 10 000 rooms. The contracts with these hotels in the second cycle will end on April 20.

The list of designated hotels in the third cycle and related details including room rates have been uploaded to the thematic webpage www.designatedhotel.gov.hk.