## <u>Grading of water quality of Tai Po</u> <u>Lung Mei Beach released</u>

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (June 21) released the latest grading of water quality for Tai Po Lung Mei Beach.

Tai Po Lung Mei Beach will be open to public on June 23 (Wednesday). At the beginning of this year, the EPD has already set up new monitoring points at Lung Mei Beach as a preparatory measure for beach opening and regular water quality monitoring, and conducted sampling and collection of preliminary data for assessment. Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades, namely Good (Grade 1), Fair (Grade 2), Poor (Grade 3) and Very Poor (Grade 4), according to the level of E. coli in the water. Since January this year, the EPD has conducted 22 rounds of water quality analysis at Tai Po Lung Mei Beach. All the results show that the water quality of the beach has stayed at the highest level of "Good" (Grade 1), and is suitable for swimming activities.

The EPD monitors the water quality of all 42 gazetted beaches (including the newly added Tai Po Lung Mei Beach) regularly and assesses their weekly grading during the bathing season as well as releases their annual ranking. The latest water quality information of beaches is available on the department's website at <a href="www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach">www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach</a> or the department's hotline at 2511 6666.