## <u>Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected</u> <u>cannabis buds worth about \$2 million</u> <u>at airport (with photo)</u>

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (May 31) detected a drug trafficking case involving baggage concealment at Hong Kong International Airport. About 10 kilograms of suspected cannabis buds with an estimated market value of about \$2 million were seized.

A 59-year-old female passenger arrived in Hong Kong from Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday. During Customs clearance, Customs officers found 20 bags of suspected cannabis buds, with a total weight of about 10 kg, in her checkin suitcase. The female passenger was subsequently arrested.

The arrested woman has been charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug. The case will be brought up at the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts on June 3.

Following the resumption of normal travel and exchanges with the Mainland and other parts of the world, the number of visitors to Hong Kong has also been increasing steadily. Customs will continue to apply a risk assessment approach and focus on selecting passengers from high-risk regions for clearance to combat transnational drug trafficking activities.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crimereporting email account (<u>crimereport@customs.gov.hk</u>) or online form (<u>eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002</u>).

