<u>Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected</u> <u>heroin (with photo)</u>

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (December 21) seized about 1.5 kilograms of suspected heroin with an estimated market value of about \$2 million at Shenzhen Bay Control Point. A man was arrested.

Customs officers yesterday inspected an express parcel that arrived in Hong Kong from Malaysia via Shenzhen, declared as carrying laminator, at Shenzhen Bay Control Point. Upon examination, the suspected heroin was found concealed inside three pieces of plastic boards.

After a follow-up investigation, Customs officers yesterday arrested a 20-year-old man suspected to be in connection with the case in Sha Tin. He has been charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug and will appear at the Sha Tin Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (December 23).

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.

Customs reminds members of the public to stay alert and not to participate in drug trafficking activities for monetary return. They must not accept hiring or delegation from another party to carry controlled items into and out of Hong Kong. They are also reminded not to carry unknown items for other people, nor to release their personal data or home address to others for receiving parcels or goods.

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

