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

Hong Kong Customs seized about 3 kilograms of suspected ketamine with an estimated market value of about \$1.8 million at Hong Kong International Airport on March 9. One man was subsequently arrested today (March 12).

Customs officers on March 9 examined an air postal packet originating from Belgium which was declared as containing wall clocks. The batch of suspected ketamine was found concealed inside six pieces of cardboard in three paper boxes containing wall clocks.

Upon follow-up investigation, Customs officers today arrested a 19-yearold man in Sha Tin suspected to be in connection with the case.

Investigation is ongoing.

Customs reminds members of the public to stay alert and not to participate in drug trafficking activities for monetary returns. 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.

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 crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).

