<u>Open auctions for public market stalls</u> on Hong Kong Island and in Islands <u>District to be held on July 25</u>

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) announced today (July 18) that open auctions for a total of 26 vacant stalls in nine public markets on Hong Kong Island and in Islands District will be held on July 25 (Tuesday).

The retail commodities allowed for sale in these stalls cover non-food related dry goods, food related dry goods or wet goods, fresh meat, fish, newspapers, vegetables, tradesman/service trades, etc. The tenancy agreement is a three-year fixed term from October 1, with no right of renewal upon expiry of the tenancy agreement. Depending on the sizes and locations of the individual stalls, the upset prices of the monthly rent of the stalls range from \$350 to \$4,700.

A spokesman for the FEHD said, "Bidders for the market stalls must be at least 18 years old and ordinarily reside in Hong Kong. To allow more people to bid for the stalls and increase customer choices by enhancing the diversity in terms of the variety of stalls, there will be a restriction on the number of stalls to be rented in the same market by a single tenant. Any person who is currently a stall tenant is not allowed to bid in the first round of the auction for any stall in the same market, but will only be allowed to bid for one stall in the second round of the auction, while no existing tenant under the new three-year fixed term tenancy scheme (i.e. those persons who became the stall tenant through the market open auctions after August 2022) shall be allowed to bid for a stall in the same market in any event."

The open auctions will be held at Room 410, 4/F, FEHD Nam Cheong Offices and Vehicle Depot, 87 Yen Chow Street West, Kowloon. Limited seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The admission tickets will be issued 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the auction (i.e. 9.30am). Persons who want to attend the auctions must wait at the waiting area of the auction venue and produce their Hong Kong identity card or passport for registration. The registered person will then be provided with an admission ticket for the auction. In addition, eligible bidders after verification will be issued with a bidding paddle for the auction. The FEHD has also invited representatives of the Police, the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the Competition Commission to monitor the auctions at the auction venues, in order to ensure that the open auctions are conducted in an orderly and fair manner.

Details of the open auctions as well as of the public market stalls concerned have been uploaded to the FEHD website (www.fehd.gov.hk/english/pleasant_environment/tidy_market/open_auction_coming .html). Bidders interested in the auctions may visit the department's website or contact the respective District Environmental Hygiene Office.