

# Secretary for Food and Health reviews Fire Services passing-out parade (with photos)

The Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, reviewed the 185th Fire Services passing-out parade for 25 station officers, 61 firemen and 44 ambulancemen at the Fire and Ambulance Services Academy today (March 14).

Speaking at the Parade, Professor Chan commended the Fire Services Department (FSD) for continuously striving for excellence, improving the efficiency and quality of service, and receiving great support from the public. The FSD introduced a new system for provision of post-dispatch advice (PDA) in October last year, providing immediate assistance to emergency ambulance service callers. After dispatching personnel, the Fire Services Communications Centre provides callers with appropriate advice with the aid of a computer system prior to the arrival of ambulance crews, so that the callers can handle patients according to the PDA and help stabilise their conditions.

Professor Chan added that, in addition to carrying out disaster relief work, the FSD continues to increase its efforts to promote disaster prevention and enhance public awareness of emergency preparedness. The FSD also encourages the public to get prepared so as to strengthen their response capability in the event of emergencies or contingencies, through publicity work and public education.

Professor Chan also presented the Best Recruit awards at the parade and watched a demonstration of firefighting and rescue techniques by the graduates.

The 130 graduates will be posted to various fire stations and ambulance depots.



