

Appointments to Lantau Development Advisory Committee announced

The Government announced today (February 1) the appointment of six new members and the reappointment of 16 incumbent members to the Lantau Development Advisory Committee (LanDAC) for a two-year term from February 1, 2024, to January 31, 2026.

The LanDAC is responsible for advising the Government on initiatives and specific proposals which are conducive to realising the sustainable development and conservation of Lantau from a holistic perspective, to capitalise on the unique strategic advantages of Lantau for meeting the long-term social, housing and economic development needs of Hong Kong.

Membership of the LanDAC from February 1, 2024, is as follows:

Chairman

Secretary for Development

Non-official members

Mr Marvin Chen

Professor Leslie Chen Hung-chi#

Mr Dane Cheng

Mr Holden Chow Ho-ding

Ms Linda Choy Siu-min

Miss Natalie Chung Sum-yue#

Mr Kwok Wai-keung

Mr Frederick Lam Tin-fuk

Mr Lau Chun-kong

Ms Rita Lau Suk-han

Mr Thomas Lee#

Professor Kenneth Leung Mei-yee

Mr Li Yun-tai

Professor Lo Hong-kam

Dr Lo Wai-kwok

Mr Simon Ng#

Dr Winnie Tang Shuk-ming

Mr Wong Fuk-kan

Mr Wong Man-hon

Professor Wong Sze-chun#

Miss Vriko Yu Pik-fan#

Ms Yung Hoi-yan

Ex-officio members

Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands) or representative
Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) or representative
Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment) or representative
Permanent Secretary for Transport and Logistics or representative
Permanent Secretary for Housing or representative
Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs or representative
Permanent Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism or representative
Director of Civil Engineering and Development
Director of Planning

new member

[2024 Lunar New Year fairs to start from Sunday](#)

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) announced today (February 1) that the 2024 Lunar New Year (LNY) fairs will be held at 15 locations for seven days from February 4 (Sunday) to 7am on February 10. About 1 500 items of wet goods, dry goods, fast food and thematic stalls will be set up to enable the public to buy festive plants and flowers, LNY food, decorations and spring couplets (fai chun) to welcome the LNY.

A spokesman for the FEHD said, "In addition to wet goods stalls selling New Year flowers, dry goods and fast food stalls that were suspended in previous years due to the epidemic will be provided this year, marking the society's resumption of normalcy in full."

The spokesman added, "The venues of the LNY fairs will be monitored using innovation and technology measures and crowd control will be implemented when necessary. The footfall of the 15 LNY fairs will be displayed in a 'green, amber and red lights' format on the FEHD website to enable the public to know about the crowds at the fair. A green light means few people are inside the fair, the amber light indicates the fair venue is slightly crowded, while the red light shows that the fair venue is very crowded.

"Furthermore, admission to the LNY fairs will cease 15 minutes prior to the closing time every day. Persons who are interested in attending are advised to reserve sufficient time to enjoy the fun of visiting the LNY fairs."

The FEHD will adopt various waste reduction and recycling measures this year. Apart from collecting general recyclables including waste paper, plastics and metals in the fairs, the department will also arrange for contractors to collect bamboo sticks, wooden pallets, polyfoam and wilted or

unsold flowers with reusable value. In addition, the FEHD will gather unsold pots of flowers and plants donated by vendors in the fairs, which will then be delivered to elderly homes, residential care homes for persons with disabilities and public hospitals by volunteer teams made up of FEHD staff on LNY's Day (February 10).

The FEHD reminded licensees that the stalls are solely for the purpose of selling and promoting the sale of the permitted commodities, and no other activities are allowed in the licensed area. If the FEHD considers that any activity conducted by the licensee to publicise, promote, display, show or sell any permitted commodities in the venue is unlawful, contrary to the interest of national security, or being immoral or incompatible with the object of the LNY fair, the FEHD is entitled to direct the licensee to stop conducting such activity and the licensee must immediately comply with such direction.

In addition, as stated in the licence agreement, the height of dry goods and fast food stalls must not exceed 3 metres, while the height of wet goods stalls must not exceed 4.5m from ground level. For wet goods stalls with a height of more than 3m from ground level, the licensee must, at his own expense, provide the FEHD with a certificate issued by an authorised person, a registered structural engineer, or a competent person under the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations (Cap. 59I) to certify the structural safety of the stall structure before the LNY fairs are opened to the public. Among them, the competent person specified in Chapter 59I refers to scaffolding personnel who have received relevant training and have relevant experience. Their qualification requirements are consistent with requirements on the market that require the erection of bamboo scaffolding for construction projects. In other words, a licensee of wet goods stalls can hire qualified scaffolders to build stall structure and require the scaffolders to sign a certificate to certify the safety of stalls.

Furthermore, the FEHD reminded licensees that no floating LED glowing balloons and aquarium fish should be sold in the LNY fairs. If balloons or gas-filled articles are to be displayed or offered for sale, only air or helium is allowed to be used for inflating the products. There are also stipulations on the storage of helium cylinders at the fair venues. According to the licence agreement, licensees must not keep, store or use more than 150 litres of helium, i.e. the maximum quantity for which a licence is not required, pursuant to the Dangerous Goods (Application and Exemption) Regulation 2012 (Cap. 295E) in the licenced area. For the sake of safety, no floating LED glowing balloons will be allowed to be brought into the LNY fair venues.

The spokesman also urged members of the public to keep the environment clean and not to litter while enjoying the festive season. Stall operators should also properly dispose of waste and keep their stalls and the surroundings clean and tidy.

For information on the 2024 LNY fairs including the locations and opening hours, please visit the [FEHD website](#) or call the FEHD hotline at 2868 0000.

Temporary closure of Sai Wan Ho Sports Centre

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (February 1) that Sai Wan Ho Sports Centre in Eastern District will be temporarily closed from February 19 for refurbishment works, which are expected to be completed in late December. During the closure period, the public may use similar facilities at Island East Sports Centre, Quarry Bay Sports Centre, Java Road Sports Centre, Chai Wan Sports Centre and Siu Sai Wan Sports Centre in the same district.

For the most up-to-date closure schedules of the above leisure and sports facilities, the public may refer to the notices at the venue or contact venue staff at 2569 7330.

Enhancements to Pilot Subsidy Scheme for Third-party Logistics Service Providers implemented today

The Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB) rolled out enhancements to the Pilot Subsidy Scheme for Third-party Logistics Service Providers (Pilot Scheme) today (February 1), with a view to strengthening the support to logistics enterprises to facilitate their upgrading and transformation towards smart, green and sustainable logistics development and to seize business opportunities arising from the growth of cross-border e-commerce.

The Pilot Scheme introduces three enhancement measures, including:

- (a) increasing the cumulative funding ceiling for each applicant enterprise from \$1 million to \$2 million;
- (b) extending the scope of funding to cover Environmental, Social, and Governance technology solutions and related implementation services, including consultancy services; and
- (c) extending the scope of funding to cover project-based trainings associated with technology implementation.

"As outlined in the Action Plan on Modern Logistics Development promulgated in October last year, our goal is to promote high-quality

development of Hong Kong's logistics industry by realising smart development, modernisation, green and sustainability, internationalisation and facilitation, thereby developing Hong Kong into a sustainable international smart logistics hub focusing on high-value goods and the e-commerce market. After taking into account the industry's feedback and the latest development trends of smart and green logistics, we introduce enhancements to the Pilot Scheme, as one of the 24 action measures in the Action Plan, to provide more appropriate support for the digital transformation and technological upgrading by the logistics industry towards smart logistics development, as well as promoting the development of green and sustainable logistics," a spokesman for the TLB said.

The \$300 million Pilot Scheme, providing funding support to third-party logistics service providers for technology adoption projects with a view to encouraging the logistics industry to enhance operation efficiency and productivity, has been well received by the industry since its launch in 2020. The subsidy ratio has been increased from "1:1" to "2(Government):1 (applicant)" for each application since 2023. The Management Committee, comprising representatives of the TLB and the industry, completed a comprehensive review of the Pilot Scheme last year and formulated the enhancement measures. As of the end of 2023, 227 projects have been funded under the Pilot Scheme, benefitting 192 enterprises.

Details of the enhancements are available on the website of the Pilot Scheme (tplsp.hkpc.org). For enquiries, please contact the Secretariat of the Pilot Scheme (Tel: 2788 6077; email: tplsp_sec@hkpc.org).

HKMA's Response to US Fed's Interest Rate Decision

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Federal Open Market Committee of the United States Federal Reserve (the Fed) announced early today (Hong Kong time) after its two-day meeting that it had decided to keep the target range for the federal funds rate unchanged at 5.25-5.5 per cent.

The Fed's future interest rate decisions will be dependent on incoming data, the evolving outlook and the balance of risks. When will the Fed begin to cut rates and the interest rate path thereafter remain uncertain, and the high interest rate environment may last for some time.

The financial and monetary markets of Hong Kong continue to operate in a smooth and orderly manner. The Hong Kong dollar exchange rate remains stable, and the Hong Kong dollar interbank rates might remain high for some time. The

public should carefully assess and manage the relevant risks when making property purchase, mortgage or other borrowing decisions. The HKMA will continue to closely monitor market developments and maintain monetary and financial stability.