

Appointments to Social Workers Registration Board (with photos)

The Government announced today (July 5) the appointment of Mr Herman Hui Chung-shing as the Chairperson of the Social Workers Registration Board and Miss Grace Chan Man-yee as the Deputy Chairperson of the Board, as well as the appointment of 10 members of the Board, namely Miss Chan Chong-lai, Miss Anna May Chan Mei-lan, Professor Amy Chow Yin-man, Mr Fong Cheung-fat, Mr Frederick Lai Wing-hoi, Dr Kevin Lau Chung-hang, Mrs Patricia Lau, Mr Roy Lo Wa-kei, Ms Annie Tam Kam-lan and Mr Barry Wong Man-sing. Their appointments will take effect on July 5, 2024, for a term of three years.

The Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr Chris Sun, said, "The Board handles social worker registration matters and monitors the professional conduct of registered social workers. The newly appointed members come from a diverse background. I expect that they will bring in a broader and more balanced participation in the Board to ensure that public interest will be safeguarded."

The membership of the Board with effect from July 5, 2024, is as follows:

Chairperson

Mr Herman Hui Chung-shing

Deputy Chairperson

Miss Grace Chan Man-yee

Members

Ms Ann Au Chor-kwan
Miss Chan Chong-lai
Miss Anna May Chan Mei-lan
Professor Amy Chow Yin-man
Mr Alex Fan Hoi-kit
Mr Fong Cheung-fat
Ms Wendy Fung Shuk-man
Mr Oscar Lai Man-lok
Mr Frederick Lai Wing-hoi
Dr Kevin Lau Chung-hang
Mrs Patricia Lau
Mr Roy Lo Wa-kei
Ms Anthea Lo Wing-sze
Mr Webster Ng Kam-wah
Mr Sin Yat-kin
Ms Annie Tam Kam-lan
Mr Barry Wong Man-sing

Director of Social Welfare or representative



[Music Office's Instrumental Music Training Scheme invites applications from beginners](#)

The Instrumental Music Training Scheme, organised by the Music Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, is now recruiting beginners for its 2024-25 Elementary Year 1 courses. Children and youths aged between 6 and 14 with no instrumental experience with the selected instruments are welcome to apply. The deadline for applications is August 5.

The scheme provides training in almost 30 Chinese and Western musical instruments including erhu, pipa, suona, sheng, zhongruan, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, French horn, trombone, euphonium, violin, viola, cello, double bass and others, with supplementary training in musicianship and theory for children and youths to develop their interest and potential in music.

One-hour group lessons are conducted weekly in Cantonese at the Music Office's five music centres in Wan Chai, Kwun Tong, Mong Kok, Sha Tin and

Tsuen Wan. An annual tuition fee of \$2,124 for the first year and \$2,596 for the second year are payable in four instalments. A fee remission scheme is available for trainees in need of financial assistance.

Interested persons can visit the Music Office website (www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/mo/training/instrumentalmusictrainingscheme.html) for more details and application submission. Course pamphlets and application forms are also available at all of the Music Office's music centres. Applicants who meet the age requirement will be invited to attend a music aptitude test and an interview on August 25. They will be notified of the results in October and the training will commence in November.

For enquiries, please call the Music Office's music centres at 2802 0657 (Wan Chai), 2796 2893 (Kwun Tong), 2399 2200 (Mong Kok), 2158 6462 (Sha Tin) and 2417 6429 (Tsuen Wan).

Rates and Government rent due July 31

Demand notes for rates and/or Government rent for the quarter from July to September 2024 have been issued, and payment should be made by July 31, 2024.

Payment can be made:

(1) by using autopay, PPS, bank automated teller machines (ATMs), the Faster Payment System (FPS) or Internet banking;

(2) by uploading an e-Cheque/e-Cashier's Order via the Pay e-Cheque portal: www.payecheque.gov.hk;

(3) by sending a crossed cheque to the Treasury, PO Box No. 28000, Sham Shui Po Post Office, Hong Kong (please note that mail with insufficient postage will be rejected); or

(4) in person at any of the post offices or designated convenience stores in Hong Kong (i.e. 7-Eleven, Circle K, VanGo or U select). For the addresses and opening hours of post offices, please call Hongkong Post's enquiry hotline on 2921 2222 or visit its website: www.hongkongpost.hk.

If payers have not received the demand notes, they may obtain replacement demand notes or enquire as to the amount payable by (i) visiting the Rating and Valuation Department website: www.rvd.gov.hk; (ii) calling 2152 0111; (iii) fax 2152 0113; or (iv) visiting in person at the Rating and Valuation Department, 15/F, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices, 303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon.

Please note that there will be no rates concession for this and the next

two quarters. The total amount due is shown on the demand note. Non-receipt or late receipt of demand note does not alter the requirement that the total amount due must be paid on or before July 31, 2024. A surcharge of 5 per cent will be imposed for late payment. A further surcharge of 10 per cent will be levied on the amount (including the 5 per cent surcharge) which remains unpaid six months after the last day for payment.

For payment by autopay, the rates and/or Government rent will be debited from payers' bank accounts on July 31, 2024. Payers should ensure that there are sufficient funds in their bank accounts to meet the payments on that date until settlement.

To support environmental protection, payers are advised to utilise the Rating and Valuation Department's free eRVD Bill service to receive e-bills and make payments. Payers are also encouraged to settle bills by autopay or other means of e-payment (e.g. PPS, ATMs, Internet banking or e-Cheque/e-Cashier Order) in order to save queuing time. Application forms for autopay are obtainable from the Rating and Valuation Department, District Offices and major banks in Hong Kong or by telephoning 2152 0111. Payers may also download the form from the Rating and Valuation Department website.

Inland Revenue (Amendment) (Tax Concessions for Intellectual Property Income) Ordinance 2024 gazetted

The Government today (July 5) gazetted the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (Tax Concessions for Intellectual Property Income) Ordinance 2024. The Amendment Ordinance, which amends the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) to implement the "patent box" tax incentive to provide tax concessions for qualifying profits sourced in Hong Kong and derived from eligible intellectual properties (IP) created through research and development (R&D) activities, comes into operation today.

"We are grateful to the Legislative Council for promptly scrutinising and passing the relevant bill, enabling the successful implementation of a major policy measure to promote the development of IP trading under the 2023 Policy Address and 2023-24 Budget. The 'patent box' tax incentive encourages enterprises to forge ahead with more R&D activities and promotes IP trading, thereby consolidating Hong Kong's competitiveness as a regional IP trading centre," a spokesman for the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau said.

The Amendment Ordinance mainly covers the following five key areas:

(1) eligible IPs covered are patents, copyrighted software and new plant

variety rights;

(2) eligible IPs can be registered in different places around the world and their related profits sourced in Hong Kong can benefit from the "patent box" tax incentive;

(3) the concessionary tax rate is set at 5 per cent, which is substantially lower than the existing normal profits tax rate in Hong Kong (i.e. 16.5 per cent);

(4) eligible IPs must be developed by taxpayers themselves. If the R&D process involves acquisition of other IPs, or outsourcing part of the R&D activities, the amount of profits eligible for the concessionary tax rate may be reduced proportionally; and

(5) enterprises need to obtain local registration for their inventions or new plant varieties in order to enjoy the "patent box" tax incentive. This requirement will only start to implement two years after the "patent box" tax incentive comes into operation.

As the Amendment Ordinance takes effect, taxpayers can apply for the "patent box" tax incentive starting from the year of assessment 2023/24. The Inland Revenue Department will provide further administrative guidance on its website (www.ird.gov.hk) for taxpayers' reference.

The Government has spared no effort in protecting IP rights and promoting IP trading to tie in with the national strategy to develop IP, and has been implementing a series of short, medium and long-term measures from various aspects, including enhancing the IP regulatory regime, to promote the development of Hong Kong into a regional IP trading centre. In this regard, in view of the copyright issues arising from the rapid development of artificial intelligence technology, the Government will conduct a consultation soon to explore further enhancement of the relevant protection provided by the Copyright Ordinance, so as to ensure that Hong Kong's copyright regime remains robust and competitive.

[Speech by CE at 2024 Colloquium on International Law \(English only\) \(with photos/video\)](#)

Following is the speech by the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, at the 2024 Colloquium on International Law today (July 5):

Commissioner Cui Jianchun (Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in

the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region), Ms Teresa Cheng (Founder Member and Co-Chairman of the Asian Academy of International Law), Dr Anthony Neoh (Co-Chairman of the Asian Academy of International Law), Consuls General, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning to you all. It's a pleasure to speak to you today, at the opening of the 2024 Colloquium on International Law.

My thanks to the Asian Academy of International Law (AAIL), the AAIL Foundation and the Chinese Society of International Law for organising this essential annual event, with its spotlight on international law issues and concerns amid the latest global developments.

The theme of this year's Colloquium is "Asia's Contribution to Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence: Past and Future."

It's a timely focus, given that this year marks the 70th anniversary of their pronouncement.

The Five Principles are:

- Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty;
- Mutual non-aggression;
- Mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs;
- Equality and mutual benefit; and
- Peaceful coexistence.

The Principles are deeply rooted in Asian philosophy and culture, including such traditional Chinese beliefs as "peace is the most precious" 和为贵, "peace among all nations" 和平共处, and values such as love, kindness and peace – beliefs cherished by many Asian countries.

The universal recognition of the Five Principles is undeniable. Its underlying doctrine epitomises the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, which emphasises respect for sovereign equality, the prohibition of the threat or use of force and the essential importance of the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Although seven decades have passed since the Five Principles were announced, they are still very much present, and needed, in today's turbulent world.

As President Xi remarked, in Beijing, last week, at the Conference Marking the 70th Anniversary of the Five Principles, and I quote: "The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence have transcended time and space and overcome estrangement, showing robust resilience and everlasting relevance. They have become open, inclusive and universally applicable basic norms for international relations and fundamental principles of international law. They have made indelible historic contributions to the cause of human progress."

President Xi added that the Five Principles have also served as the prime guidance for the establishment and development of relations between countries with differing social systems, acted as a powerful rallying force

behind the efforts of developing countries to pursue cooperation and self-strength through unity and contributed historic wisdom to the international order's reform and improvement.

Many Asian countries have contributed to the Five Principles, some through their participation in the Belt and Road Initiative, since building a community with a shared future aligns with the spirit of the Five Principles.

By removing barriers to trade and building a more interconnected world, Asian countries continue to fuel growth in the region, and well beyond.

China has an extensive trade network in Asia and throughout the world. Hong Kong, a Special Administrative Region of China and a founding member of the World Trade Organization, also plays an important role in international trade.

Thanks to "one country, two systems", Hong Kong, an international financial and legal hub, builds bridges and encourages open trade.

That begins with China, our country. CEPA – the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement. In the past 21 years, CEPA enabled Hong Kong companies and professionals to enjoy preferential treatment when doing business in the Mainland and reinforced Hong Kong's role as a bridge connecting the Mainland and the rest of the world. And there is much more to come.

Earlier this week, new amendments to CEPA's services trade were announced, following months of consultation. The sectors set to enjoy expanded trade liberalisation including legal and financial services, as well as testing and certification-related services, architectural services and more, tapping into the vast business opportunities brought about by the rapid development of the country as well as the national and international dual circulation strategy.

The agreement, largely concluded and soon to be finalised, means that, among other things, legal practitioners from Hong Kong will have greater room to do business in the Mainland. And that, ladies and gentlemen, can only accelerate Hong Kong's rise as a centre for international legal and dispute-resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region. Now that's a good-news story for our legal professionals and the sector in general.

My thanks to the Central Government for making it happen, for creating bountiful opportunity for Hong Kong – and all those who work with Hong Kong.

As an international legal-and-dispute-resolution services centre, Hong Kong contributes to the peaceful settlement of international disputes in support of the Five Principles.

With the support of the Central Government, Hong Kong has been chosen to host the headquarters for the International Organization for Mediation, which will further enhance Hong Kong's role as an international hub for dispute resolution in the Asia-Pacific region.

The use of mediation, which is deeply rooted in Asian cultures, reflects the spirit of the Five Principles. And the establishment of the headquarters for the International Organization for Mediation in Hong Kong can only contribute to the continuing reference, and relevance, of the Five Principles.

The advocacy of the Principles by Asia, and China in particular, which looks to them as guiding principles in its foreign policy, has contributed to the establishment of a new international political and economic order, one that is rational and beneficial to world peace and stability.

As President Xi noted at the conference in Beijing last week, when the Five Principles are followed, "even countries that differ from each other in social system, ideology, history, culture, faith, development stage and size can build a relationship of mutual trust, friendship and cooperation."

With its distinct and diverse cultural heritage, its economic dynamism and growing political influence, Asia is well-positioned to continue practicing the ideals enshrined in the Five Principles. In doing so, it can only extend the far-reaching benefits of peaceful coexistence to the rest of the world.

Hong Kong will continue to abide by the spirit of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence through our support of the Belt and Road and other initiatives for greater regional integration. We will also continue to promote the peaceful resolution of disputes and encourage stronger capacity building in Asia and beyond.

Ladies and gentlemen, the enduring Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence are words to live by in peace, harmony and mutual prosperity.

My thanks, again, to the organisers for bringing us together here, in person and online. I wish you all a rewarding day and the best of business, law and life in the coming year.

Thank you very much.

