

Appointments to Harbourfront Commission announced

The Government announced today (June 29) the Chief Executive's appointment of the Chairperson and five members to serve on the Harbourfront Commission (HC) for a two-year term commencing on July 1, 2018.

Mr Vincent Ng Wing-shun, a long-serving HC member, will succeed Mr Charles Nicholas Brooke as the new Chairman. Ms Janice Lai Wai-man and Ms Christina Lee Maisenne will join the HC for the first time as members, while three existing members, Ms Kelly Chan Yuen-sau, Mr Alan Lo Yeung-kit and Mr Ngan Man-yu, have been re-appointed.

The Secretary for Development, Mr Michael Wong, welcomed the appointments and re-appointments.

"With Mr Ng's rich experience in the work of harbourfront enhancement and his outstanding leadership demonstrated as the chairman of the Task Force on Kai Tak Harbourfront Development, I am confident that the good work of the HC can be sustained in the years to come. The HC deliberations will also continue to benefit from the diversity brought about by the different backgrounds of new and existing members," Mr Wong said.

"I wish to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing Chairman, Mr Nicholas Brooke, who has been involved in harbourfront-related matters since the establishment of the former Harbourfront Enhancement Committee (HEC) back in 2004, for his able chairmanship since 2010 and his invaluable contribution to the HC over the past years.

"Harbourfront development and enhancement is a core vision shared by both the Government and the HC. The next few years will be challenging for the HC, which is expected to take forward a number of major harbourfront initiatives including those funded by the \$500 million dedicated funding," Mr Wong added.

To provide enhanced support to the HC in taking forward harbourfront initiatives, the Government will, from July 1, 2018, onwards, re-organise the Harbour Unit under the Development Bureau into a dedicated Harbour Office (HO). The HO will be staffed by a multi-disciplinary team comprising different professional and supporting officers.

The HC was established in July 2010 to succeed the HEC to advise the Government on harbourfront planning, design, management and other related matters with the objective of fostering and facilitating the development of the Victoria harbourfront.

Following is the membership of the HC commencing on July 1, 2018:

Chairperson

Mr Vincent Ng Wing-shun

Vice-Chairperson

Secretary for Development

Non-official Members (Organisations)

Business Environment Council

Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong

Conservancy Association

Friends of the Earth

Hong Kong Institute of Architects

Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects

Hong Kong Institute of Planners

Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors

Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design

Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong

Society for Protection of the Harbour

Non-official Members (Individuals)

Mr Chan Ka-kui

Mr Walter Chan Kar-lok

Ms Kelly Chan Yuen-sau

Mr Hans Joachim Isler

Mr Karl Kwok Chi-leung

Ms Janice Lai Wai-man

Ms Christina Lee Maisenne

Ms Vivian Lee Ying-shih

Mr Alan Lo Yeung-kit

Mr Ngan Man-yu

Mr Tony Tse Wai-chuen

Official Members

Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands) or her representative

Commissioner for Tourism or his representative

Commissioner for Transport or her representative

Director of Civil Engineering and Development or his representative

Director of Leisure and Cultural Services or her representative

Director of Marine or her representative

Director of Planning or his representative

Secretary

Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Harbour)

Spanish National Ballet to return with “Zaguán & Alento” in September

After a five-year hiatus, the Ballet Nacional de España (Spanish National Ballet) will return to Hong Kong in September to stage three performances of its latest production, "Zaguán & Alento".

"Zaguán & Alento" comprises two renowned pieces and follows a challenging proposition to the Spanish National Ballet from the company's director, Antonio Najarro, through which he aims to showcase the company's new aesthetic and style. The performances will be held at 8pm on September 21 and 22 (Friday and Saturday) and at 3pm on September 23 (Sunday) at the Auditorium of Sha Tin Town Hall.

"Zaguán" is a flamenco ballet that seeks to portray transitional space from an array of perspectives, in which three young artists will showcase their personal dance vocabulary, approach and style. The company will also perform "Soleá del Mantón" by Blanca del Rey, one of the grand dames of Spanish flamenco.

"Alento" is presented as a living reflection of Najarro's style as a creator, as well as of his personal vision of classic Spanish dance. It is a reminder of his choreographic trajectory, inspired by the scores of the great composer and guitarist Fernando Egozcue, who has created music full of rhythm and sensitivity.

Founded in 1978, the Spanish National Ballet is one of the original projects of the National Institute for the Stage Arts and Music. The Ballet has evolved with the times but has preserved its interest in all styles of Spanish dance, performing choreographies, flamenco and stylised Spanish dance. It combines tradition and modernity while not forgetting key aspects such as training and performing new projects.

Antonio Najarro is an accomplished dancer and choreographer. He began his career at 15, performing in many prominent Spanish dance companies. He was accepted into the Spanish National Ballet in 1997 and three years later ascended to the rank of Principal Dancer under the direction of Aida Gomez. Najarro was appointed the ballet's director in 2011.

"Zaguán & Alento" by the Spanish National Ballet is presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. Tickets ranging from \$160 to \$460 are now available at URBTIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary

schemes, please call 2268 7323 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/dance/programs_572.html.

Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2018 gazetted today

The Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2018 was published in the Gazette today (June 29). The Bill amends certain electoral legislation to improve the voter registration (VR) arrangements, and the electoral procedures for the Chief Executive, Election Committee Subsector, Legislative Council (LegCo), District Council and Rural Representative elections.

"We are preparing for the elections in the next election cycle, and have reviewed the electoral legislation in the light of the experience gained. We propose to introduce certain amendments through the Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2018," a Government spokesman said.

In addition, the Bill proposes to enhance the VR system, including increasing maximum penalties for offences relating to VR to strengthen the deterrent effect, and improving the VR claim and objection mechanism so as to process relevant cases more effectively and minimise the chance of any possible abuse. The Bill also proposes to broaden the pool of eligible candidates for appointment as Revising Officer to include former and retired magistrates, in order to allow more flexibility for the Judiciary to make suitable appointment of Revising Officers.

Furthermore, the Bill proposes to introduce a targeted exemption of the criminal liability in respect of a third party who incurs merely electricity and Internet access charges in publishing election advertisements on the Internet, to safeguard the freedom enjoyed by the public in their daily expression of views on the Internet under the premise of upholding the fairness of elections, and to rationalise electoral procedures and improve the clarity and consistency of certain electoral legislation.

"We plan to introduce the Bill into the LegCo for first and second readings on July 11, 2018. We hope that the Bill can be passed within 2018, so that the amendments to enhance the voter registration and electoral procedures can come into effect as soon as possible," the spokesman said.

The Bill and details of the proposals have been made available at the LegCo webpage.

Scope of tax deductions for capital expenditure incurred for purchase of intellectual property rights expanded

The Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 5) Ordinance 2018 (the Amendment Ordinance) was gazetted and came into operation today (June 29) to expand the scope of profits tax deductions for capital expenditure incurred by enterprises for the purchase of intellectual property (IP) rights from five types to eight with effect from the year of tax assessment 2018/19.

The additional three types of IP rights involved are rights in layout design (topography) of integrated circuits, plant varieties and performances. The original five types of IP rights for which profits tax deductions have already been provided for the capital expenditure incurred for their purchase are patents, know-how, copyright, registered designs and registered trade marks.

"The expansion of the scope of profits tax deductions is one of our initiatives to encourage enterprises to engage in the development of IP trading business and promote Hong Kong as an IP trading hub in the Asia-Pacific region. Implementation of this initiative through the Amendment Ordinance would add new impetus to our efforts," a spokesman for the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau said.

The Amendment Bill also expands the scope of tax deductions originally provided for the registration expenses for trade marks, designs and patents, to cover plant variety rights as well.

The Amendment Ordinance was passed by the Legislative Council on June 20. With the expansion in the scope of tax deductions provided therein, capital expenditure incurred by enterprises for the purchase of various major types of IP rights, as well as the expenses for the registration of IP rights under applicable regimes, would be deductible under the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112).

Schedule for issuing press releases on statistical data

Following is a reminder of the press releases on statistical data to be issued between July and September 2018. The schedule for issuing press releases on statistical data in 2018 was provided to the media in September

2017. No change has been made to the original schedule.

July 2018

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Date	Press Release
3	Retail sales statistics for May 2018
19	Unemployment and underemployment statistics for April – June 2018
19	Volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade for May 2018
20	Business expectations for third quarter 2018
23	Consumer Price Index for June 2018
26	External merchandise trade statistics for June 2018

August 2018

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Date	Press Release
1	Retail sales statistics for June 2018
3	Restaurant receipts and purchases statistics for second quarter 2018
9	Volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade for June 2018
10	Gross Domestic Product for second quarter 2018: data contained in the press release entitled "Economic Situation in the Second Quarter of 2018 and Latest GDP and Price Forecasts for 2018" issued by The Office of the Government Economist under the Financial Secretary's Office (Note)
14	Mid-year population for 2018
17	Unemployment and underemployment statistics for May – July 2018
21	Consumer Price Index for July 2018
27	External merchandise trade statistics for July 2018
30	Retail sales statistics for July 2018

September 2018

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Date	Press Release
6	Statistics on vessels, port cargo and containers for second quarter 2018
10	Quarterly business receipts indices for service industries for second quarter 2018
11	Construction output statistics for second quarter 2018
11	Statistics on trade involving outward processing in the mainland of China for second quarter 2018
13	Index of industrial production and producer price index

	for industrial sector for second quarter 2018
14	Gross National Income and external primary income flows for second quarter 2018
18	Unemployment and underemployment statistics for June – August 2018
19	Chain volume measures of Gross Domestic Product by economic activity for second quarter 2018
20	Consumer Price Index for August 2018
20	Volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade for July 2018
20	Employment and vacancies statistics for June 2018
21	Balance of Payments and International Investment Position statistics for second quarter 2018
27	External merchandise trade statistics for August 2018
27	Wage and payroll statistics for June 2018

Note: The Office of the Government Economist under the Financial Secretary's Office will issue a press release on the Half-yearly Economic Report 2018 and second update of the GDP and prices forecasts for 2018 as a whole. The GDP for the second quarter of 2018 will also be released there. No separate press release on the GDP for the second quarter of 2018 will be issued by the Census and Statistics Department on that day.

The schedule for regular press releases in the other months of 2018 can be downloaded from the website of the Census and Statistics Department (www.censtatd.gov.hk/press_release/index.jsp).