

Assess the risk of heat stroke to employees

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following special announcement immediately, and repeat it at frequent intervals when the Very Hot Weather Warning is in force:

The Labour Department reminds employers that as the Very Hot Weather Warning is in force, they should assess the risk of heat stroke to their employees and adopt effective preventive measures such as providing cool drinking water, setting up temporary sunshade and providing mechanical aids to reduce physical exertion of employees. Employees should drink water regularly and be mindful of their physical condition. If early heat stroke symptoms such as headache and thirst appear, they should inform their supervisors and seek medical help immediately.

Very Hot Weather Warning issued

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

The Hong Kong Observatory has issued the Very Hot Weather Warning.

To prevent heat stroke, avoid prolonged activities outdoors.

If engaged in outdoor work or activities, wear a wide-brimmed hat and light-coloured, loose-fitting clothes. Stay in shaded areas as much as possible.

Drink plenty of water, and avoid beverages containing caffeine or alcohol.

If you feel sick, consult a doctor right away.

Response to US Trafficking in Persons Report 2018

In response to the US Department of State's "Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2018" (the US TIP Report 2018), a Government spokesman said today (June 29) that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government took strong exception to the Report's grading on Hong Kong.

"The US Department of State's continued disregard of HKSAR Government's determined, persistent and reinforced efforts in combatting TIP is most deplorable and unacceptable."

"We strongly disagree with the US TIP Report 2018. It contains criticisms not founded on facts and allegations not supported by evidence," the spokesman stressed.

"TIP is a heinous crime that has never been tolerated in Hong Kong. Hong Kong's long and well-established legal framework, stringent enforcement actions by our professional and highly effective law enforcement agencies (LEAs), independent judicial system, respect for the rule of law in society, as well as our clean and efficient government have placed us on a solid footing to combat TIP. We have all along maintained close liaison with foreign consulates, the local civil society and international counterparts to fight against the crime," the spokesman added.

"The HKSAR Government has always been fully committed to working with the international community in combatting TIP through multi-faceted measures."

"As one of the busiest transport hubs and freest port in the world, we fully recognise the need for maintaining vigilance against the threat of TIP."

"The Report ignores Hong Kong's rigorous legislative regime, containing over 50 legal provisions against various TIP conducts that form a comprehensive package of safeguards comparable to composite TIP laws found in other jurisdictions. The Report also ignores the heightened coordination, awareness and capacity building among Government departments to step up enforcement actions on all fronts against TIP-related crimes."

"The US TIP Report 2018 treats Hong Kong unfairly. As in the past, the 2018 Report has once again demonstrated US Department of State's failure in providing an accurate or objective assessment of Hong Kong's commitment and efforts to combat TIP and protect foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) against exploitation. For example, the acknowledgement in the Report that the Government demonstrated significant efforts to eliminate trafficking and the allegation that we did not demonstrate increasing efforts compared to the previous report period are clearly self-contradictory."

"In 2017, the Government continued to expand the victim screening mechanism to more police districts, and further to the Customs and Excise Department as well. As a result, the number of vulnerable persons screened under the mechanism has increased by 87 per cent, from 2 515 in 2016 to 4 710 in 2017. Among them, only nine persons were identified as victims, i.e. less than 0.2 per cent of the screenings conducted. This is consistent with the fact that TIP is not prevalent in Hong Kong. Accusing Hong Kong of not taking the initiative in identifying and protecting TIP victims because of the low number of victims identified is simply illogical."

"Contrary to the bare assertions in the Report, LEAs have always been active in taking enforcement actions to combat TIP, including reports and referrals from non-governmental organisations (NGOs). In 2017, the Police conducted a total of 247 anti-vice operations to combat the TIP and vice syndicates. In particular, a syndicate mastermind was successfully prosecuted and convicted of eight counts of 'Trafficking in persons for the purpose of prostitution' and two counts of 'Keeping a vice establishment' a year ago. She was sentenced to a total of 18 months' imprisonment and the syndicate was thoroughly smashed."

Besides, the HKSAR Government attaches great importance to protection of the rights and interest of FDHs. In 2017, in a case whereby an FDH was deployed by an employment agent and an employer to work in Shenzhen, both the employment agent and the employer were convicted of "conspiracy to defraud" after trial and sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

In 2017, the Labour Department (LD) conducted 1 846 inspections, amongst which 1 515 were inspections to employment agencies (EAs) providing job placement service for FDHs. In the same year, LD successfully prosecuted 11 EAs for overcharging, unlicensed operation, etc. LD also revoked the licences of six EAs with malpractices in the same year.

The spokesman pointed out that, despite the unfounded and unfair criticisms, the HKSAR Government will continue to implement with earnest efforts concrete and robust actions against TIP and enhance protection for FDHs as set out in the Action Plan to Tackle TIP and to Enhance Protection of FDHs in Hong Kong promulgated in March this year. As an example, the spokesman supplemented that the penalties for an employment agency convicted of overcharging the commission payable by an FDH had gone up significantly to a maximum fine of \$350,000 and imprisonment for three years.

In March 2018, the HKSAR Government set up a high-level inter-bureau / departmental Steering Committee to Tackle TIP and to Enhance Protection of FDHs (Steering Committee) under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration. The Steering Committee ensures that policy steer on the overall strategy and strategic measures to tackle TIP and enhance protection of FDHs are available to relevant bureaux and departments (B/Ds) from the most senior echelon of the Government and that sufficient resources are provided to B/Ds.

At the same time, the HKSAR Government promulgated the Action Plan to Tackle TIP and to Enhance Protection of FDHs in Hong Kong (Action Plan),

which outlines a package of multi-faceted measures that are comprehensive, strategic and targeted, covering areas including victim identification, investigation, enforcement, prosecution, victim protection and support, prevention, and partnership with different stakeholders. In addition to more than 20 ongoing measures, the Action Plan includes several major new initiatives, including:

- (a) extending the victim screening mechanism to the LD;
- (b) extending the Police's victim screening mechanism to all 24 police districts;
- (c) appointing dedicated teams or officers in the relevant LEAs to handle cases relating to TIP and exploitation of FDHs;
- (d) appointing dedicated teams or officers in the relevant LD divisions to ensure the effective implementation of measures to enhance protection of FDHs;
- (e) strengthening support for the designated co-ordinator of human exploitation cases in the Department of Justice;
- (f) setting up a dedicated hotline with interpretation services to provide support services to FDHs; and
- (g) engaging with the governments of major FDH source countries and launch public education campaigns through the relevant Economic and Trade Offices.

The spokesman reiterated that the setting up of the Steering Committee and the promulgation of the Action Plan clearly demonstrates the HKSAR Government's continuous and strong commitment and resolve in combatting TIP and protecting FDHs. Many of the new measures will take effect within 2018.

The Government also calls on NGOs or any member of the public to come forward to report any suspected cases of TIP or exploitation of FDHs to the authorities without delay, so that prompt actions could be taken. "As set out in the Action Plan, we will continue to engage with NGOs to regularly exchange views on issues concerning TIP and protection of FDHs. In this regard, a meeting between representatives of all relevant government bureau and departments and representatives of 14 NGOs was held in May 2018 to exchange views on the Action Plan. Similar efforts will certainly continue," the spokesman added.

"HKSAR Government's continuous commitment and all-out efforts to combat TIP have not received due and fair recognition. Despite this, we will take forward our action plan and do what is appropriate for Hong Kong," the spokesman added.

CE meets guests of Belt and Road Summit (with photos)

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, met a number of senior officials from the Mainland and overseas at Government House separately yesterday and today (June 27 and 28), who are visiting Hong Kong for the third Belt and Road Summit jointly organised by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. They included the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, Dr Somkid Jatusripitak; the Chairman of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council (SASAC), Mr Xiao Yaqing; the Vice Minister of Commerce, Ms Gao Yan; and the National Security Advisor, Union Minister for the Ministry of the office of the Union Government and Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Thaung Tun. Mrs Lam thanked them for the staunch support for the Summit and exchanged views with them on future co-operation in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative.

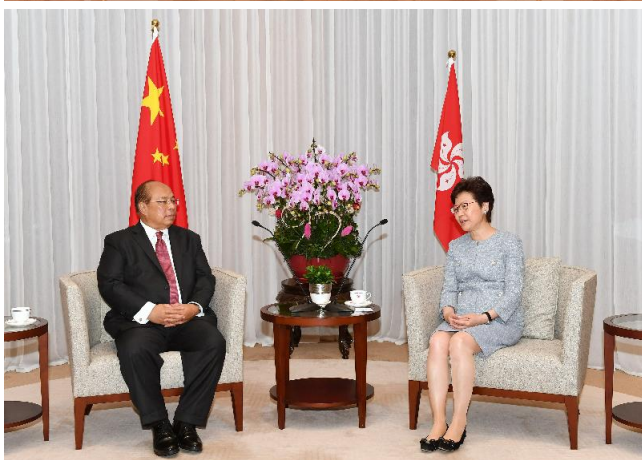
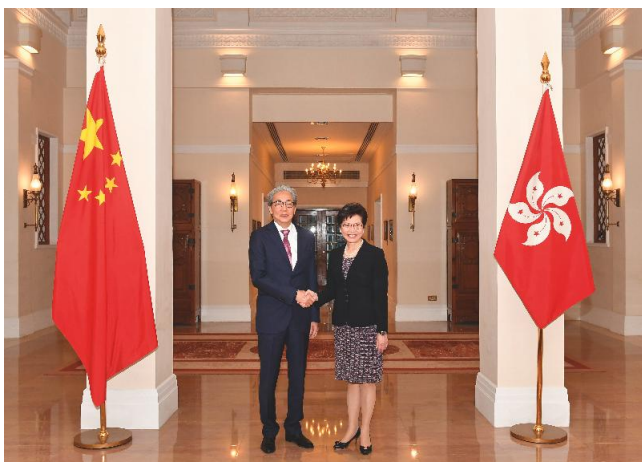
Mrs Lam hosted a dinner for Dr Somkid at Government House yesterday evening. She said she has visited Thailand twice and met with Dr Somkid for the third time since taking office, signifying the growing relationship between Hong Kong and Thailand. She particularly thanked the Thai government for responding positively to her proposal in the Policy Address delivered last year to establish in Bangkok the third Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). She was grateful for the Thai government's co-operation, enabling good progress of the work. Both parties agreed at the meeting to work towards the common goal of putting the ETO into operation at the beginning of next year.

Mrs Lam met with Mr Xiao before attending the Belt and Road Summit this morning. She thanked Mr Xiao for his unlimited support for Hong Kong, including organising the chief executives and senior management from over 170 state-owned enterprises (SoEs) to participate in the seminar on "Strategies and Opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative – Leveraging Hong Kong's Advantages, Meeting the Country's Needs" organised by the HKSAR Government and the Belt and Road General Chamber of Commerce at the Great Hall of the People in February this year, and leading a delegation to take part in the Belt and Road Summit this time. Mrs Lam expressed the hope that with the support of the SASAC, more SoEs will make use of Hong Kong as a platform to explore together business opportunities brought by the Belt and Road Initiative.

In the afternoon, Mrs Lam met U Thaung Tun at the Chief Executive's Office. She said the visit to Myanmar last September, the first visit by a Chief Executive since the establishment of the HKSAR twenty years ago, was very fruitful. Noting that the ASEAN, including Myanmar, lies in the Belt and Road and has great development potential, she said that many Hong Kong companies should be interested in expanding investment in Myanmar. She said the HKSAR Government which strives to consolidate the results of the last

visit will enhance co-operation with Myanmar in various areas including trade, investment, tourism, culture and education. She said that Hong Kong, as an international city, is very willing to share its experience with Myanmar in various aspects, including clean governance, city management, aviation safety and railway operations, to foster the people-to-people bonds between the two places as a contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative.

In the evening, Mrs Lam hosted a dinner at Government House for Mr Xiao, Ms Gao and other guests from the Mainland attending the Belt and Road Summit. Thanking Mr Xiao and Ms Gao for sharing their insights to enrich the Summit, she said she hopes they will continue to support Hong Kong's full participation in the Belt and Road Initiative to inject new impetus to the economy of Hong Kong, the country and the world.



[IFFO hosts panel discussion on “Risk Mitigation in Infrastructure Financing” at Belt and Road Summit and](#)

announces three new partners (with photo)

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) Infrastructure Financing Facilitation Office (IFFO) took part in the third Belt and Road Summit today (June 28) by hosting a panel discussion on "Risk Mitigation in Infrastructure Financing". The panel discussion attracted over 1 000 Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas participants.

Given the vast infrastructure financing needs, attracting private sector capital is crucial. However, participation of private sector capital in infrastructure financing in these economies have been limited due to concerns over different types of risks, such as political and legal risks at country level as well as construction, operation and financial risks at project level. Therefore, properly mitigating these risks is most critical to improving the bankability of infrastructure projects. The panel looked into these risk factors hindering private sector capital's participation and discussed the corresponding mitigation solutions.

The Panel Discussion was moderated by Deputy Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and Director of the Infrastructure Financing Facilitation Office Mr Eddie Yue and attended by the following guests (in alphabetical order of organisation name) as speakers: the PRC Leader and Senior Vice President, Asia Pacific, AECOM, Mr Ian Chung; the Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer of CLP Holdings Limited, Mr Geert Peeters; the Chief Representative, Hong Kong Representative Office, the Export-Import Bank of China, Ms Wen Hong; the Chief Operating Officer of Global Infrastructure Hub, Mr Mark Moseley; Co-Head of the Infrastructure and Real Estate Group, Asia-Pacific, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Mr James Cameron; and the Head of Credit Lines, Asia Pacific, Zurich Insurance Company Ltd, Mr Tim Warren.

IFFO also announced three new organisations joining as partners, bringing the total number of IFFO partners to 90. The inclusion of the new partners further strengthened IFFO's mission in facilitating infrastructure investments and financing through working with a cluster of key stakeholders. The new partners are (in alphabetical order):

1. China State Construction Engineering Corporation Limited
2. Global Infrastructure Facility
3. State Development & Investment Corp., Ltd.

About IFFO

As part of the HKMA, IFFO's mission is to facilitate infrastructure investments and their financing by working with a cluster of key stakeholders. The functions of IFFO are:

- providing a platform for information exchange and experience sharing;
- building capacity and knowledge on infrastructure investments and financing;
- promoting market and product development; and
- facilitating infrastructure investment and financing flows.

By establishing IFFO, the HKMA can play a valuable role as a catalyst in the facilitation of infrastructure investments and their financings with its mandate to promote Hong Kong as an international financial centre.

For more information about IFFO, please visit www.iffo.org.hk.

