

Inspection of aquatic products imported from Japan

In response to the Japanese Government's plan to discharge nuclear-contaminated water at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station, the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene issued a Food Safety Order which prohibits all aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds originating from the 10 metropolis/prefectures, namely Tokyo, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Miyagi, Chiba, Gunma, Tochigi, Niigata, Nagano and Saitama, from being imported into and supplied in Hong Kong.

For other Japanese aquatic products, sea salt, and seaweeds that are not prohibited from being imported into Hong Kong, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will conduct comprehensive radiological tests to verify that the radiation levels of these products do not exceed the guideline levels before they are allowed to be supplied in the market.

As the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water is unprecedented and will continue for 30 years or more, the Government will closely monitor and step up the testing arrangements. Should anomalies be detected, the Government does not preclude further tightening the scope of the import ban.

From noon on December 5 to noon today (December 6), the CFS conducted tests on the radiological levels of 186 food samples imported from Japan, which were of the "aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt" category. No sample was found to have exceeded the safety limit. Details can be found on the CFS's thematic website titled "Control Measures on Foods Imported from Japan" (www.cfs.gov.hk/english/programme/programme_rafs/programme_rafs_fc_01_30_Nuclear_Event_and_Food_Safety.html).

In parallel, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has also tested 52 samples of local catch for radiological levels. All the samples passed the tests. Details can be found on the AFCD's website (www.afcd.gov.hk/english/fisheries/Radiological_testing/Radiological_Test.html).

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) has also enhanced the environmental monitoring of the local waters. No anomaly has been detected so far. For details, please refer to the HKO's website (www.hko.gov.hk/en/radiation/monitoring/seawater.html).

From August 24 to noon today, the CFS and the AFCD have conducted tests on the radiological levels of 18 430 samples of food imported from Japan (including 12 258 samples of aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt) and 5 164 samples of local catch respectively. All the samples passed the tests.

Report on “Advancing Talent Development in Financial Services: Emerging Global Trends and Their Impact on Hong Kong” (with photo)

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

The Hong Kong Institute for Monetary and Financial Research (HKIMR), the research arm of the Hong Kong Academy of Finance (AoF), today (December 6) released a new Applied Research report, titled "Advancing Talent Development in Financial Services: Emerging Global Trends and Their Impact on Hong Kong".

This report explores major sociodemographic trends that have emerged in the global market for talents in financial services, with the aim of fostering a comprehensive understanding of their nature and aiding the formulation of strategies to mitigate their effects in Hong Kong. The report involves the analysis of two surveys designed to gather insights from industry professionals worldwide and human resources leaders in Hong Kong, respectively. These surveys were complemented by an analysis of online professional profiles across major international financial centres. The report also explores the existing experiences of talent development policies, providing a comprehensive overview of the global and Hong Kong talent landscapes. Based on these findings, the report outlines some considerations for Hong Kong's financial services industry on future talent developments.

"It is our hope that this report can serve as a valuable reference for practitioners, financial services firms and other industry stakeholders for developing their future talent strategies, and explore ways for the industry to work together in strengthening Hong Kong's comparative advantages as an international financial centre, which is seen as the key factor in attracting and retaining talents." said the Chief Executive Officer of the AoF and Executive Director of the HKIMR, Mr Enoch Fung.

The report is available on the [AoF/HKIMR website](#).

About the AoF

The AoF is set up with full collaboration amongst the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the Securities and Futures Commission, the Insurance Authority and the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority. By bringing together the strengths of the industry, the regulatory community, professional bodies and the academia, it aims to serve as (i) a centre of excellence for developing financial leadership; and (ii) a repository of knowledge in monetary and financial research, including applied research.

About the HKIMR

The HKIMR is the research arm of the AoF. Its main remit is to conduct research in the fields of monetary policy, banking and finance that are of strategic importance to Hong Kong and the Asia region. The Applied Research studies undertaken by the HKIMR are on topics that are highly relevant to the financial industry and regulators in Hong Kong, and they aim to provide insights on the long-term development strategy and direction of Hong Kong's financial industry



[Director-General of Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises attends Huawei Cloud Software Partners Go Global Summit \(with photo\)](#)

â€‹The Director-General of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), Mr Philip Yung, attended the Huawei Cloud Software Partners Go Global Summit today (December 6). The event was organised by OASES partner Huawei's subsidiary Huawei Cloud, in collaboration with Cyberport. Mr Yung introduced Hong Kong's innovation and technology (I&T) ecosystem, opportunities and policy measures to the participating representatives of over 100 I&T enterprises, and witnessed the launching ceremony of the Go Hong Kong, Go Global scheme.

In his remarks, Mr Yung said that under "one country, two systems", Hong Kong enjoys the unique advantages of strong support of the motherland and close connectivity with the world, offering enterprises robust research capabilities, sound intellectual property protection system as well as the fundraising advantages of an international financial centre. With a view to strengthening Hong Kong's dual role in supporting Mainland I&T enterprises to go global and assisting overseas enterprises to expand into the Mainland and

Asian markets, the Government has launched various policy measures in recent years to enhance the development of the I&T industry, such as the Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Development Blueprint, the cross-border data flow initiative and the development of the San Tin Technopole. In addition, Cyberport will establish an artificial intelligence (AI) supercomputing centre in two phases, targeting to complete the first phase within next year and the second phase by early 2026. These two phases will provide a total computing power of 3 000P. Establishing the AI supercomputing centre will contribute to the development of the local AI industry and attract leading I&T enterprises to Hong Kong.

Mr Yung mentioned that Huawei is among those in the first batch of OASES partners. OASES is delighted to witness OASES partners' continuous expansion of business in Hong Kong and looks forward to working closely with them in promoting the development of local I&T industry. The Summit attracted leaders from over 100 upstream, midstream and downstream Mainland I&T enterprises and aimed to enhance their understanding of Hong Kong's latest I&T developments and opportunities via seminars and networking events, thereby facilitating Mainland enterprises to leverage Hong Kong's distinctive advantages to tap into international markets. The OASES will continue to engage the over 100 enterprises attending the Summit and, via one-stop facilitation services, assist them to access suitable I&T resources and establish their presence in Hong Kong at the earliest opportunity.

Since its establishment in December last year, the OASES has met with representatives from nearly 300 enterprises. Among them, about 30 OASES partners will set up businesses or increase their business scale in Hong Kong. The OASES will continue to work jointly with OASES partners to attract upstream, midstream and downstream enterprises in related industries to Hong Kong, with a view to creating synergy and promoting the vibrant development of the I&T ecosystem in Hong Kong.



[LCQ1: Developing the Northern](#)

Metropolis

Following is a question by Dr the Hon Lo Wai-kwok and a reply by the Secretary for Development, Ms Bernadette Linn, in the Legislative Council today (December 6):

Question:

According to the Northern Metropolis Action Agenda recently published by the Government, an "industry-driven and infrastructure-led" approach will be adopted as the key axle for the planning of the Northern Metropolis, and the Northern Metropolis will be divided into four major zones. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) as it has been reported that the development of the Northern Metropolis spans 20 years, whether the authorities will expedite the formulation of detailed development proposals, review the amounts of investment in the relevant public works, prepare a list of works according to the works scale (i.e. large, medium and small-scale works), as well as set the order of implementing the works according to their importance and urgency and make planning for manpower resources in advance, so as to prevent drastic rises and falls in the volume of works; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;

(2) whether it will, on the premise of ensuring that the Government firmly assumes its leading role in the development of the Northern Metropolis, assess the merits and demerits of different financing arrangements, so as to expeditiously formulate clear financial arrangements; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and

(3) whether, in order to strengthen the Northern Metropolis' functions of developing industries as well as attracting enterprises and investments to be served by its four major zones, the authorities will actively attract professional talents in industry and commerce from the Mainland and overseas to assist in formulating practicable policy initiatives and strengthen the authorities' coordination and execution capabilities; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Reply:

President,

The Northern Metropolis is a new engine for Hong Kong's future growth, adopting an "industry-driven and infrastructure-led" approach as its key planning axle as mentioned by Member. The Government published the Northern Metropolis Action Agenda on October 30, 2023 to clearly outline the development blueprint of the Northern Metropolis, including the development themes, industry positioning, major facilities, industry-driven planning and development timetable, of the four major zones therein.

Having consulted relevant departments, my respective replies to the various parts of the question raised by Dr the Hon Lo are as follow:

(1) There are three New Development Areas, namely Kwu Tung North and Fanling North, Hung Shui Kiu and Ha Tsuen and Yuen Long South, under construction within the Northern Metropolis. Other major development areas are currently under the planning study stage, among which the land use proposal for San Tin Technopole was released earlier this year. As for the remaining major development areas, i.e. the Lau Fau Shan, Tsim Bei Tsui and Pak Nai areas, New Territories North New Town, Ngau Tam Mei and Ma Tso Lung, their land use proposals will be released within next year progressively. After public engagement, the Government will conduct detailed design of the works, arrange phasing for implementation and make estimations on the expenditure based on the confirmed land use planning as soon as possible. When formulating the works schedules and phasing arrangements, the Government will fully consider such factors as the project priority, financing arrangements, implications on public finance and the manpower capacity of the market, etc.

On the other hand, the Government and the Construction Industry Council will continue to disseminate to the industry regularly relevant information on the estimated total construction output for the next 10 years and maintain close contact with industry stakeholders regarding the supply and demand of manpower. The Government will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach, including making good use of the Labour Importation Scheme for the Construction Sector launched in July this year, strengthening manpower training and employment support, and adopting advanced technology and innovative construction techniques to facilitate uplifting the productivity and capacity of the construction industry.

(2) The development of the Northern Metropolis is an important investment for promoting our long-term and sustainable development. It can release land value and foster industry development, generating enormous economic benefits and revenue for us, thereby enhancing our competitiveness and improving our quality of life. We have always emphasised that the Government takes the lead in planning and implementation of the development of the Northern Metropolis, while the Government also welcomes the active participation of the market. For comprehensive preparation, it was announced in the Policy Address this year that the Committee on the Financing of Major Development Projects (Financing Committee) led by the Financial Secretary and the Office for the Financing of Major Development Projects would be established to evaluate feasible investment and financing options for major development projects including the Northern Metropolis and Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands, etc, assess the feasibility of bringing in private investors for these projects, and examine the impact of the major development projects on government finance to ensure the Government's fiscal sustainability. The Financing Committee held its first meeting last week.

(3) Apart from formulating appropriate land use planning, an array of support covering industry-specific policies, facilitation measures, and initiatives to attract enterprises and investment are also required to take forward the development of industries. Thus, the promotion of the Northern Metropolis development is a collaborative endeavour across bureaux and departments. The

Steering Committee on the Northern Metropolis led by the Chief Executive provides high-level policy steer and supervision for the Northern Metropolis development. Various bureaux actively participate in the relevant industries development and are working closely and forging ahead. The Northern Metropolis Co-ordination Office (NMC0) under the Development Bureau (DEVB) is responsible for overall co-ordination. Using San Tin Technopole as an example, following the announcement by the DEVB earlier on the planning proposal for the new land for innovation and technology (I&T) uses, the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau is conducting a consultancy study on these lands, with a view to providing recommendations for different land parcels on the development of specific I&T uses in the I&T value chain, requisite supporting facilities, land disposal and operation modes, etc.

Furthermore, the Government has set up specific departments responsible for attracting businesses and investment, mainly the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) and Invest Hong Kong. After its establishment in December 2022, the OASES actively reaches out to high-potential and representative strategic enterprises. The OASES has met with over 200 strategic enterprises, among which 30 of them involving different I&T aspects have landed/will land or expand in Hong Kong. Also, Invest Hong Kong provides one-stop support for all other overseas and Mainland enterprises interested in setting up or expanding their operations in Hong Kong. External recruitments for the directorate posts of these two departments have either been conducted or are under planning to bring talents from the industries on board. The recruitment and deployment of other staff in the teams will also be based on job requirements and the candidates would be requested to have the relevant work experiences. The NMC0 will continue to work closely with other relevant bureaux and departments in taking forward the industry developments in the area.

Additional screening for “2001: A Space Odyssey” of “!magine Fest”

Organised by the Film Programmes Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the screening programme “!magine Fest” will showcase 17 world cinema works with highly imaginative stories from December 10 to January 27 next year. The screening programme has received an overwhelming response and all tickets of one of the films, “2001: A Space Odyssey” (1968), have been sold out. An additional screening has been scheduled for 7.30pm on January 27 (Saturday) next year at the Cinema of the Hong Kong Film Archive to allow more audiences to revisit this epochal sci-fi masterpiece. Tickets of the additional screening will be available from Friday (December 8).

Director Stanley Kubrick worked with sci-fi novelist Arthur C Clarke to create “2001: A Space Odyssey”. From the prehistoric ape-ancestry past to the

era of space travelling, the vision of the story is profoundly magnificent. With immense imagination, the film examines topics of human evolution and the meaning of existence, while reflecting on the dominance and threat of technology towards humanity. The film was produced when computer-generated imagery did not exist, yet the stunningly outstanding visuals of the film are still breathtaking to audiences today. The film is in English with Chinese and English subtitles.

Tickets of the additional screening priced at \$60 will be available at URBTIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone bookings, please call 3166 1288. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2734 2900 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/fp/en/listing.html?id=56.