

Exchange Fund Bills tender results

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

Exchange Fund Bills tender results:

Tender date : December 5, 2023
Paper on offer : EF Bills
Issue number : Q2349
Issue date : December 6, 2023
Maturity date : March 6, 2024
Amount applied : HK\$186,300 MN
Amount allotted : HK\$59,150 MN
Average yield accepted : 4.82 PCT
Highest yield accepted : 4.86 PCT
Pro rata ratio* : About 9 PCT
Average tender yield : 4.93 PCT

Tender date : December 5, 2023
Paper on offer : EF Bills
Issue number : H2378
Issue date : December 6, 2023
Maturity date : June 5, 2024
Amount applied : HK\$74,450 MN
Amount allotted : HK\$13,000 MN
Average yield accepted : 4.61 PCT
Highest yield accepted : 4.61 PCT
Pro rata ratio* : About 83 PCT
Average tender yield : 4.71 PCT

*"Pro rata ratio" refers to the average percentage of allotment with respect to each tender participant's tendered amount at the "highest yield accepted" level.

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tenders to be held in the week beginning December 11, 2023:

Tender date : December 12, 2023
Paper on offer : EF Bills
Issue number : Q2350
Issue date : December 13, 2023
Maturity date : March 13, 2024

Tenor : 91 Days
Amount on offer : HK\$59,543 MN

Tender date : December 12, 2023
Paper on offer : EF Bills
Issue number : H2379
Issue date : December 13, 2023
Maturity date : June 12, 2024
Tenor : 182 Days
Amount on offer : HK\$14,000 MN

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 4 to noon today (December 5), the CFS conducted tests on the radiological levels of 169 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 50 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 18 187 samples of food imported from Japan (including 12 072 samples of aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt) and 5 112 samples of local catch respectively. All the samples passed the tests.

Hong Kong Customs detects dangerous drugs internal concealment case involving passengers at airport (with photos)

Hong Kong Customs on December 3 detected a dangerous drugs internal concealment case involving two incoming passengers at Hong Kong International Airport and seized about 1.8 kilograms of suspected cocaine with an estimated market value of about \$2 million.

Two female passengers, aged 58 and 41, arrived in Hong Kong from Paris, France, on that day. During Customs clearance, Customs officers suspected that the passengers had dangerous drugs concealed inside their body cavities. They were then escorted to the hospital for examination. Upon examination, a doctor confirmed that foreign objects were concealed inside their body cavities. They were arrested immediately. As at 1pm today (December 5), the arrested persons have discharged 228 pellets of suspected cocaine weighing about 1.8kg in total.

The arrested women each have been charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug. The case will be brought up at the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (December 6).

Following the resumption of normal travel and exchanges with the Mainland and other parts of the world, the number of visitors to Hong Kong has also been increasing steadily. Customs will continue to apply a risk assessment approach and focus on selecting passengers from high-risk regions

for clearance to combat transnational drug trafficking activities.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk) or online form (eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002).



[Speech by Acting STL at Cathay Pacific Cadet Pilot Programme graduation ceremony \(English only\) \(with photo\)](#)

Following is the speech by the Acting Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Mr Liu Chun-san, at the Cathay Pacific Cadet Pilot Programme graduation ceremony today (December 5):

Ronald (Chief Executive Officer of Cathay Group, Mr Ronald Lam), Captain Kempis (Director Flight Operations of Cathay Pacific (CX), Captain Chris Kempis), Mr Burns (General Manager Flying of CX, Mr Tim Burns), Professor Man (Dean of Faculty of Engineering of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), Professor Man Hau-chung), Mr Davidson (Chief Executive Officer of Aeroguard Flight Training Center, Mr Joel Davidson), Captain Wong (Chief, Flight Standards of the Civil Aviation Department, Captain Lawrence Wong), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. It is my great pleasure to be here today to witness another batch of cadets graduating from the well-esteemed Cathay Pacific Cadet Pilot Programme.

Building on its 35-year legacy of nurturing local cadet pilots, the CX Cadet Pilot Programme has been continuously enhanced to provide high-quality and professional training for our pilots-to-be. Today's event marks another important milestone for the Programme, as this graduation ceremony is for the first cohort of cadets who graduated from the new integrated course developed by CX and PolyU. Unlike the legacy course, where theory, flying as well as simulator training are all conducted in Australia, this new integrated course offers an alternative mode of training for prospective pilots, which includes theoretical ground training at PolyU and multi-crew simulator training at Cathay City.

Here, I would like to thank CX and PolyU for your commendable efforts in exploring new options to attract new blood into the aviation industry and enriching the capacity of aviation professional training in Hong Kong. To enhance Hong Kong's strategic position as an international aviation hub in accordance with the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the Greater Bay Area Outline Development Plan, the Government has attached great importance to manpower training. Promoting localisation of the aviation workforce is one of our major policy objectives, and local airlines and education institutions have been playing an indispensable role on this. That said, we clearly understand that it requires collaborative efforts to maintain a competent and high-quality workforce to support the growth and development of the aviation industry.

The Government spares no effort in attracting and grooming aviation talent. The solid recovery of the aviation industry post-pandemic, as well as the major airport development projects in the pipeline, has led to growing demand for aviation manpower. The Government has been working together with the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) and the industry to take a range of measures to address the manpower shortage issue.

On the one hand, in order to address short- to medium-term manpower shortage, we launched the Labour Importation Scheme for the Transport Sector – Aviation Industry in July this year, to allow the industry to import workers to fill vacancies for airport frontline non-supervisory positions under 10 specified job types, on the premises of local employment first. A total of 2 800-plus quotas were approved in the first round of application and imported workers have been arriving in Hong Kong since October.

As for long-term manpower demand, which will have to be met by the local workforce, the Government and the AAHK have together adopted a three-pronged strategy to attract new blood and retain talent.

Firstly, the AAHK has been stepping up local recruitment effort by co-organising large-scale job fairs with the Labour Department and trade unions.

Secondly, various measures have been adopted to improve the working conditions of airport staff, including launching an airport staff pooling scheme and introducing automation technologies to improve airport operations and reduce work pressure on frontline staff; reducing commuting cost both in terms of time and money for airport staff by the AAHK's subsidy for bus

companies to increase airport bus frequency and a new transport subsidy scheme for airport staff to be rolled out in due course; as well as the AAHK's development of the HKIA Community Building to improve staff welfare by providing leisure, catering and nursery facilities for all airport staff.

Thirdly, training for airport staff will be stepped up through the Government's continual support under the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund and the courses provided by the Hong Kong International Aviation Academy. The Government will continue to monitor the labour market situation and adopt a multipronged approach to address the manpower needs of the aviation industry.

In closing, may I congratulate all 21 graduates here today on completing the CX Cadet Training Programme. Today, you embark on a new journey into the world of aviation. May your passion and professionalism propel you to new heights in your career. Last but not least, I would like to remind that the District Council election will be held on the coming Sunday. Let us cast our vote for a better community that belongs to everyone including all of you. Thank you.



[Asia Pacific ICT Alliance Awards 2023 starts off in Hong Kong](#)

The Asia Pacific Information and Communications Technology Alliance (APICTA) Awards 2023 officially started off today (December 5). The four-day event, jointly organised by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) and the Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS), will gather over 600 ICT leaders and industry elites from across the Asia-Pacific region. This marks the third occasion when Hong Kong has the privilege to host the event after 2004 and 2013.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Professor Sun Dong, said that it is a great honour for Hong Kong to host the prestigious APICTA Awards for the third time. This recognition reflects Hong Kong's standing as a vibrant ICT hub and underscores the

Government's unwavering dedication to nurturing innovation and fostering the growth of Hong Kong's ICT ecosystem. Professor Sun wished all entries and teams great victory and success.

The APICTA Awards is an acclaimed international awards programme organised annually by the APICTA. Through the concerted support of the 16 member economies, the APICTA Awards is highly regarded by the ICT industry in the Asia-Pacific region. This year, the Awards received an overwhelming response, drawing nearly 300 entries from enterprise and student teams to compete for the honours in 24 award categories.

The Awards programme will take place from today until December 8, comprising awards judging, Students' Entries Networking Session, and Startup Entries Networking Session. Through an array of valuable networking opportunities among participating teams, judges, and the Executive Committee members, it will help promote the innovation and technology (I&T) development in the Greater Bay Area, and Hong Kong as an I&T hub for regional collaboration and spearhead the ICT development across the region.

On December 7, the Hong Kong Night will be held to let the Hong Kong delegation present their insights, innovative ideas and technology solutions to delegates from other participating economies. The Awards Presentation Ceremony, to be held on December 8, will officially reveal the winners chosen by the judging panels comprising esteemed experts from across the member economies.

The Awards aims to recognise outstanding organisations and individuals in the Asia-Pacific region who have made a significant contribution to the ICT industry. It is dedicated to stimulating ICT innovation, raising ICT awareness in the community, creating business matching opportunities between innovators and investors, and facilitating technology transfer and application. Details of the Awards are available on the thematic website, apicta2023.hk.