

French Science Festival activities enable public to explore science in sport (with photos)

To tie in with the theme of this year's French Science Festival "Sport and Science: from Health to Performance", the Science Promotion Unit of the Hong Kong Science Museum (HKScM) is collaborating with the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau to roll out a series of activities from tomorrow (November 10) to November 27. They include the "Science at the Service of Medals" exhibition, a film screening, a conference and a panel discussion at the HKScM, so that members of the public can better understand the relationship between science and health as well as athletes' performances.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the exhibition today (November 9), the Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Culture), Miss Eve Tam, said that the French Science Festival provides an inspiring opportunity for schools and the public to appreciate the significance of sports in people's daily lives and the interconnection between science and sports. Other officiating guests included the Consul General of France in Hong Kong and Macau, Mrs Christile Drulhe, and the Museum Director of the HKScM, Mr Lawrence Lee.

The "Science at the Service of Medals" exhibition designed by the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie, showcases the collaborative efforts of scientists across diverse disciplines who develop equipment to enhance speed, utilise virtual reality training to reduce fatigue, and individualise training regimens through physiology studies to empower athletes. The virtual reality experience of "A Taste for Risk" will also be presented at the exhibition venue. Through a transmedia project that combines a documentary and virtual reality with three French athletes, participants will be able to immerse themselves in four extreme sports, including bodyboarding, wingsuit flying, free-diving, and snowboarding. They can gain an unparalleled experience and feel the thrill of pushing limits.

Besides the exhibition, the HKScM will also launch a series of feature programmes. They include a film screening of the animated comedy "Les Triplettes de Belleville", which received two Oscar nominations, on November 11 at 4pm. The Champions Conference will be held on November 18 at 6pm, when the coach of the Hong Kong, China Fencing Team, Mr Grégory Koenig, and Hong Kong, China Paralympic fencer athlete, Ms Alison Yu, will share their journeys leading towards winning Olympic and Paralympic medals. The Hong Kong break dancer who competed in the Asian Games, B-Boy C Plus, will also give a performance. There will be a nutrition panel discussion on November 26 at 3pm, where Sport Nutrition & Monitoring Manager, Hong Kong Sports Institute Dr Margaret Kuo, together with a senior dietitian and a sports science officer, will discuss with participants the relationship between nutrition and health,

as well as sport performances. Online registration for the three programmes mentioned above has started. There will be limited quotas and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. For registration, please visit www.spu.hk/en/cards/french-science-festival-2023/, or call 2732 3232 for enquiries.

The exhibition and programmes are jointly presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau, and jointly organised by the Science Promotion Unit of the HKSCM and the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau.



[Correctional officers stop remand person in custody from attacking staff member](#)

Correctional officers at Lo Wu Correctional Institution stopped a female remand person in custody from attacking a staff member today (November 9).

At 2.21pm today, a 33-year-old female remand person in custody suddenly

became emotional and attacked a correctional officer inside a dayroom. The officer at the scene immediately ordered the assailant to stop and called for reinforcement.

During the incident, the officer sustained an injury to her face. She did not need to be sent to a public hospital after examination and treatment by the institution Medical Officer. The assailant did not sustain any injuries.

The case has been reported to the Police for investigation.

The assailant was remanded for the offence of theft in July 2023.

Government to launch Elderly Health Care Voucher Pilot Reward Scheme next Monday

The Department of Health (DH) today (November 9) announced that the Government will launch the three-year Elderly Health Care Voucher Pilot Reward Scheme (Pilot Reward Scheme) next Monday (November 13) to optimise the use of resources so as to promote primary healthcare and support the healthcare needs of elderly persons. Through providing rewards, the Government encourages eligible Hong Kong elderly persons aged 65 or above to use health care vouchers on designated primary healthcare services provided by the private healthcare service sector. It is estimated that almost 1.7 million eligible elderly persons will be able to benefit from the Pilot Reward Scheme.

The Government launched the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme (EHVS) in 2009. The policy objective is to strengthen disease prevention and health management through providing financial incentives enabling elderly persons to choose private primary healthcare services that best suit their needs. The Pilot Reward Scheme proposed in "The Chief Executive's 2022 Policy Address" is to further incentivise elderly persons by guiding them to make better use of healthcare vouchers for continuous preventive healthcare and chronic disease management services, so as to achieve the original policy objective of the EHVS, and tie in with the main development direction focusing on disease prevention as put forward in the Primary Healthcare Blueprint.

The Pilot Reward Scheme will be implemented from November 13 this year until December 31, 2026. For each year during this period, elderly persons only need to accumulate the use of vouchers of \$1,000 or more on designated primary healthcare purposes such as disease prevention and health management services within the year (from January to December), and they will be automatically allotted a \$500 reward into their voucher account by the

eHealth (System) Subsidies (System), which can be used on the same designated primary healthcare purposes, without the need for registration. In other words, for elderly persons who met the above criterion and are allotted the reward, the amount of vouchers they receive in that year is increased from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

The designated primary healthcare services under the Pilot Reward Scheme include:

- (i) Services on disease prevention and follow-up/monitoring of long-term conditions provided by medical practitioners, Chinese medicine practitioners and dentists enrolled in the EHVS, such as health assessment, body check, screening, vaccination, treatment of chronic diseases, dental examination, scaling, extraction and filling, etc;
- (ii) Hypertension and diabetes mellitus screening, as well as treatment phase services provided under the Chronic Disease Co-care Pilot Scheme;
- (iii) Personalised services and Community Rehabilitation Programme provided by District Health Centres/District Health Centre Expresses; and
- (iv) Outpatient services on preventive and follow-up/monitoring of long-term conditions provided by 11 designated Outpatient Medical Centers of the University of Hong Kong – Shenzhen Hospital (HKU-SZ Hospital) and the Health Centre operated by the HKU-SZ Hospital.

Under the Pilot Reward Scheme, special arrangement is made for the period for accumulating voucher spending for the first-year reward (i.e. 2024 Reward). The period of accumulation will start on November 13 this year and end on December 31 next year (i.e. 2024). The corresponding accumulation period for the two years in 2025 and 2026 will begin on January 1 and end on December 31 of the year. Each elderly person can be allotted the reward once each year at most, and the reward for each year can be used until December 31 of the following year. Unused rewards cannot be accumulated and will lapse after the expiry date. Accumulation of voucher spending will start afresh at the beginning of each year.

The annual voucher amount provided to an elderly person is kept separate from the amount of reward allotted, hence the accumulation limit of vouchers (currently set at \$8,000) will not be affected. When an elderly person uses voucher to pay for designated primary healthcare service fee, the System will automatically deduct the relevant fee from the reward (if available) first, and then deduct the remaining fee from the balance in his/her voucher account if necessary. The amount of the reward used to pay for designated primary healthcare service fees will not count towards the accumulated voucher spending for obtaining the reward; i.e. a reward cannot be used to earn another reward.

In addition, according to the "user accumulates" principle, if an elderly person uses his/her spouse's voucher to pay for designated primary healthcare services, the amount spent will only be recorded as his/her own accumulated voucher spending and cannot be counted together with the accumulated voucher spending of his/her spouse's. Shared use of reward between spouses is not allowed. Whenever an elderly person uses reward and/or voucher to pay for designated primary healthcare service fees, he/she will receive an SMS message notification about the balance of his/her reward

and/or voucher. Elderly persons should consult the healthcare service provider when receiving healthcare services for queries about the related record.

A spokesman for the DH reminded, "The reward for each year comes with an expiry date, after which it will lapse. The relevant arrangement aims to encourage elderly persons to seek health management services regularly. Elderly persons should take note and make a thorough plan on how to make the best use of the reward for designated primary healthcare services before it expires."

To ensure the proper use of public money, the DH will strictly deal with all suspected cases of non-compliance in accordance with the established monitoring mechanism, and take appropriate measures or actions including referring cases to the law enforcement agencies and/or the relevant professional regulatory boards or councils for follow-up as appropriate.

The spokesman added, "The DH and healthcare service providers will never, in relation to the use of vouchers or reward, ask elderly persons to provide bank account information (including passwords etc) via phone calls or SMS messages, or to click on a web link. Elderly persons should stay vigilant against scams."

To ensure healthcare service providers' understanding of the operation of the Pilot Reward Scheme, the DH has held briefing sessions for relevant healthcare service providers from end-October, and explained the detailed arrangements and responded to their enquiries.

The Government will closely monitor the implementation of the Pilot Reward Scheme and evaluate its effectiveness in promoting the receipt of health assessment, disease screening and chronic disease management services by elderly persons. We will also continue to review the health benefits brought by the EHVS in planning for the future development of primary healthcare.

â€‹If members of the public would like to obtain more information on the EHVS, they may browse the EHVS website (www.hcv.gov.hk) or call the EHVS hotline (2838 2311).

[Appeal for information on missing man in Tsim Sha Tsui \(with photo\)](#)

â€‹ Police today (November 9) appealed to the public for information on a man who went missing in Tsim Sha Tsui.

â€‹ Chhim Leang Hort, aged 72, went missing after he was last seen on

Nathan Road yesterday afternoon (November 8). His family made a report to Police on the same day.

He is about 1.6 metres tall, 60 kilograms in weight and of thin build. He has a long face with yellow complexion and short black hair. He was last seen wearing a dark blue suit jacket, white shirt, black trousers and black leather shoes.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing man or may have seen him is urged to contact the Regional Missing Persons Unit of Hong Kong Island on 2860 1040 or 9886 0034 or email to rmpu-hki@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.



[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 November 8 to noon today (November 9), the CFS conducted tests on the radiological levels of 124 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 13 199 samples of food imported from Japan (including 8 726 samples of aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt) and 3 810 samples of local catch respectively. All the samples passed the tests.