

# Director of Health meets delegation of National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine and China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences (with photos)

The Director of Health, Dr Ronald Lam, met with a delegation led by the Vice Commissioner of the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (NATCM) and President of the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences (CACMS), Professor Huang Luqi, today (November 1) to exchange views and discuss the promotion of the high-quality development of Chinese medicine of the two places.

The delegation paid a visit to the Department of Health (DH)'s Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute (GCMTI) located at the Hong Kong Science Park. The delegation learned about Chinese medicines testing and research work by the DH through touring the GCMTI's various laboratories and the Chinese Medicines Herbarium.

Dr Lam introduced to the delegation the latest developments of the GCMTI, including development plans of the permanent building of the GCMTI in Tseung Kwan O as well as the Digitalised Chinese Medicines Information Platform which will be completed in early 2024 as mentioned in "The Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address".

Dr Lam said, "Chinese medicine has always been an integral part of the healthcare system in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government expresses sincere gratitude to the NATCM for its staunch support for the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong, which includes inviting Hong Kong to participate in the Fourth National Survey of Chinese Materia Medica (CMM) Resources and providing technical support. The HKSAR Government is also grateful for the NATCM's provision of technical support in the sequencing test method for CMM. This long-term collaboration will lead the world to adopting cutting-edge technologies to ensure the authenticity of CMM and traditional medicines."

The DH has been actively promoting exchanges and co-operation with relevant authorities in the Mainland in areas such as testing and reference standard research of Chinese medicine. In May 2022, Hong Kong was invited by the NATCM to take part in the Fourth National Survey of CMM Resources to examine the situation of Chinese medicines resources in Hong Kong, with relevant work co-ordinated by the GCMTI. The Preliminary Index of Chinese Medicine Resources in Hong Kong, which is the first phase of the survey, has been compiled and submitted to the NATCM. The second phase of the survey, focusing on Hong Kong's CMM market and traditional knowledge, has commenced in May this year.

Since 2017, the DH and the Institute of Chinese Materia Medica of the CACMS have been in close collaboration in the research and testing of Chinese medicines standards. In July 2022, the two parties signed a co-operation agreement on research and application for standards of Chinese medicines to reinforce exchanges and collaboration between the two parties, and to facilitate the development of Chinese medicine of the two places.

During the visit, the two parties agreed to continue promoting exchanges and collaboration on testing technology and research of Chinese medicines through different means such as holding expert group meetings, symposiums and training.



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## [Hong Kong Customs detects largest-ever suspected ketamine case in town \(with photo\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (October 31) conducted an anti-narcotics operation in Kwai Chung and seized about 100 kilograms of suspected ketamine and about 1.4kg of suspected cannabis buds, with a total estimated market value of about \$52 million. This is the largest-ever ketamine case detected by Customs in town.

Acting on intelligence analysis, Customs yesterday intercepted a 33-year-old man in Kwai Chung and brought him to a nearby residential unit for a search. About 100kg of suspected ketamine, about 1.1kg of cannabis buds, and a batch of drug packaging paraphernalia were seized therein. The man was immediately arrested. Later, Customs officers escorted him to another residential unit nearby for a search and further seized about 300 grams of suspected cannabis buds inside the premises.

An investigation is ongoing.

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/).



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## [LCQ4: Bringing vibrancy to Kwun Tong waterfront](#)

Following is a question by the Hon Tang Ka-piu and a reply by the Secretary for Development, Ms Bernadette Linn, in the Legislative Council today (November 1):

Question:

The Government granted in 2016 the operation of "Fly the Flyover 01, 02 and 03" sites situated by the Kwun Tong Promenade (the Site) to HKALPS Limited (HKALPS) for creativity, arts and cultural uses for a period of four years, with a view to bringing vibrancy to the Kwun Tong waterfront. HKALPS has developed the Site as VESSEL. However, there are views pointing out that due to the low usage rate of VESSEL resulting from its complicated booking procedures and high venue rentals, the Kwun Tong waterfront has been underutilised, thus failing to create sufficient social values and economic benefits. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) of the annual income (including government subsidies such as special subsidies during the epidemic) and expenditure of HKALPS since it was granted operation of the Site;

(2) whether the Government has, upon expiry of the first four-year operation

period of the Site, assessed whether VESSEL can achieve the objective of bringing vibrancy to the Kwun Tong waterfront, and invited other arts groups to operate the Site; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and

(3) whether it has plans to introduce diversified cultural tourism experience projects at the Kwun Tong waterfront (e.g. setting up a night market on a long-term basis, as well as bringing in marine restaurants or retro floating seafood restaurants) and revitalise adjacent waterfront areas yet to be developed (e.g. building a yacht club in Yau Tong Bay); if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Reply:

President,

My replies to the various parts of the question are as follows:

(1) The "Fly the Flyover Operation" under the Kwun Tong Bypass is run by the Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO) and the operator under a partnership approach. By way of the Operation, vacant government sites beneath Kwun Tong Bypass were converted into spaces for creative, arts and cultural uses, to provide leisure and entertainment space for the public and add vibrancy and local character to the Kwun Tong waterfront, facilitating the development of the second core business district in Kowloon East (KE).

In October 2016, the EKEO signed the tenancy agreement with the HKALPS to operate the sites of the "Fly the Flyover Operation" (the venue). The HKALPS is a recognised non-profit making organisation and operates the venue in a self-financing mode. Under this mode, the operator can set charges to other hirers for renting out the venue for commercial and other kind of activities while the income generated shall be ploughed back into the operating expenses of the venue. The government facilities at the venue together with all the surplus made shall be returned to the Government after expiry of the tenancy. The major sources of income of the venue operation include venue rents, sponsorship from charity trust funds to carry out various activities and special subsidies from the Government during the pandemic. Total annual incomes ranged from about \$3 million to more than \$7 million. Major expenditures include staff wages, cleaning and security expenses and insurance fees, etc. Total annual expenditures in the past few years ranged from about \$4 million to more than \$7 million. Losses were recorded in the first four years of operation, and surpluses have been recorded since 2021.

(2) The EKEO has been closely monitoring the operation of the HKALPS and they have to submit to the EKEO on a monthly basis the venue's usage report and details of events organised, while half-yearly and year-end reports listing out events organised, occupancy rates of the venue and improvement proposals, financial statement as well as the plan and proposals for the coming year are also required to be submitted to the EKEO.

Through collaboration with more than 300 organisations, the HKALPS has established an extensive network in KE and long-term partnership with social

welfare, commercial, local and school organisations over the past few years. Upon establishing a unique branding and image, the venue has become a popular place for hosting various events for the public.

During the first four years of operation, over 700 large and small-scale events were held at the venue (that is, three to four events per week on average). Large-scale events include the international dragon boat championships in 2018, social enterprise carnival in 2019 and Social Innovation Experience in 2020. Other events include arts festivals, exhibitions, bazaars and urban farming experience, which cater for different interests and needs of the public. Besides, the venue provides a platform for nurturing diverse creative talents. The public are free to carry out busking, photo shooting, skateboarding, bike riding, hip hop dancing, street workout, etc, at the venue when not being rented out. Since early this year when the society resumed normalcy, utilisation of the venue has started to increase. Recently, the operator has co-organised with the Development Bureau (DEVB) a series of "Night Vibes Hong Kong" events, which are well received by the public.

Taking into consideration the HKALPS's performance and achievement in their first four years of operation, the DEVB renewed the tenancy with the HKALPS in May 2021 for another four years until the end of May 2025 based on the "option to renew" clause in the tenancy agreement. The HKALPS also commits to further strengthen creative, arts and culture development, as well as green living, in response to community aspirations and needs in the four years after renewal. We plan to select the operator for the next term by open tender, which is to be conducted one year before expiry of the renewed tenancy (the middle of next year) and the details of tendering will be announced in due course.

(3) We have been endeavouring to connect the waterfront promenades and provide high-quality public space at both sides of the Victoria Harbour, so as to put equal emphasis on both quality and quantity.

In terms of "quantity", we will focus on developing the promenades in Kowloon in future, including opening promenades of over five kilometres in KE in 2028 or before, covering areas such as Kai Tak Development Area, Kwun Tong, Cha Kwo Ling and Yau Tong. This would extend the opened promenades from about three km at present to over eight km. Moreover, another 3.6 km of the waterfront in KE would be developed along with future development. Among them, the majority of the waterfront areas in Yau Tong Bay are located in private land lots, whose land owners are required under the Outline Zoning Plan to provide a public waterfront promenade during development. We will also amend the zoning in future so as to allow the land owner of the designated land lot within the area to provide marina related landside facilities through planning applications.

As regards the "quality", apart from the activities that form part of the "Night Vibes Hong Kong", various organisations have also organised water-related activities at Kwun Tong Promenade recently. The gradual opening of more facilities in KE will also enrich the nearby harbourfront areas. For example, the Dining Cove, with about 3 000 square metres, will be situated to

the south of the Kai Tak Sports Park facing the Victoria Harbour. The adjacent Kai Tak Basecamp, with about more than 15 000 sq m, will also provide leisure space and viewing stations. The above two projects are both expected to be completed in 2024. We will continue to make good use of the harbourfront sites to provide diversified activities and facilities, and will take into consideration the different demands from the public as users during the process.

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## **Tender result for Tung Chung residential site announced**

The Lands Department announced today (November 1) that all four tenders received for the sale of a residential site in Tung Chung Town Lot No. 55 at Area 106B, Tung Chung, New Territories (the Site), had been rejected as their tendered premiums did not meet the Government's reserve price for the Site.

Sites in the Government's Land Sale Programme are disposed of in the open market under the established mechanism. The Government will not sell a site if no bid reaches the reserve price as assessed by the Government's professional valuers. This is in the interest of protecting public revenue. The reserve price is set on the day of tender closure so that the latest market conditions are taken into account.

The tenderers for the Site in alphabetical order, with the names of their parent companies in brackets, were:

- (1) APEX King Limited (Sino Land Company Limited and China Merchants Land Limited);
- (2) Century Ace Development Limited (Henderson Land Development Company Limited);
- (3) Forum Pacific Limited (Sun Hung Kai Properties Limited); and
- (4) Strong Associate Limited (K. Wah International Holdings Limited).

A Government spokesman said that the Government will not speculate on the considerations behind the bids placed by tenderers. Bids are influenced by a myriad of factors, such as how individual tenderers assess the market conditions and the attractiveness of the site, as well as their corporate positions and development strategies. The Government will monitor the market situation closely and announce the arrangement to relaunch the land for disposal at an appropriate time.

A sustained and steady land supply is the Government's overall land policy goal and this policy goal should not be affected by short-term market fluctuations. The Government will continue to adopt a multipronged approach to ensure a steady supply of private housing land.

The Site has an area of about 10 648 square metres and is designated for private residential purposes. Its minimum gross floor area is 22 361 sq m and the maximum gross floor area that may be attained is 37 268 sq m. The tender closed on October 27.

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## **Electronic customs declaration required for mail containing goods destined for Indonesia to start from November 6**

Hongkong Post announced today (November 1) that, according to the latest requirement of Indonesia Post, senders must submit an electronic customs declaration for sending mail containing goods (non-documents) to Indonesia with effect from November 6 (Monday).

The above requirement has already been put into effect for the posting of mail containing goods to a number of destinations including the Mainland, the member states of the European Union, the United Kingdom, the United States, Korea, Brazil, etc. The customs information required is largely the same as that currently provided in the paper declaration forms, which includes:

- sender's information;
- addressee's information;
- particulars of contents; and
- Harmonized System (HS) Code.

As reminded by Indonesia Post, all categories of mail containing goods that do not meet with the abovementioned requirement may be subject to delay or return. Senders should provide a return address on mail items. Items returned without return addresses will be destroyed. Postage will not be refunded for return or disposal as a result of such circumstances.

Hongkong Post has made available various channels, including online platforms (Easy PreCustoms, EC-Ship, My Speedpost and Post Now), the Hongkong Post mobile app and the Easy PreCustoms kiosk or tablet in all post offices, for senders to submit their electronic customs declarations. For details, please refer to Hongkong Post's website ([www.hongkongpost.hk/en/other/2020/ecustoms/index.html](http://www.hongkongpost.hk/en/other/2020/ecustoms/index.html)).