

Employers and employees should make reasonable work arrangements after tropical cyclones or rainstorms

The Labour Department (LD) today (June 14) reminded employers to make practical and reasonable work arrangements for employees after the cancellation of tropical cyclone warnings or rainstorm warnings, with due consideration to the road and traffic conditions and other factors, and make flexible arrangements for staff to resume work or work remotely (if applicable). This will help maintain good labour-management relations, and ensure the safety of employees as well as the smooth operation of organisations.

"For staff who have genuine difficulties in resuming work on time upon cancellation of a tropical cyclone or rainstorm warning, employers should be sympathetic and handle each case flexibly. For example, employers may allow employees to resume work in stages, permit employees who have difficulties in returning to workplaces to work remotely (if applicable) or allow more time for them to report for duty and resume work," an LD spokesman said.

The spokesman reminded employers to observe the statutory liabilities and requirements under the Employment Ordinance, Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance, Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance, Employees' Compensation Ordinance and Minimum Wage Ordinance.

"As natural calamities cannot be avoided, for employees who are not able to report for duty or resume duty on time due to adverse weather or 'extreme conditions', employers should neither deduct their wages, good attendance bonus or allowances, nor reduce employees' entitlement to annual leave, statutory holidays or rest days under the Employment Ordinance, or ask for additional hours of work from employees to compensate for the loss of working hours when they are unable to report for duty," the spokesman said.

Employers should note that they have an obligation to provide and maintain a safe working environment for their employees under the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance. Moreover, under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance, employers are liable to pay compensation for injuries or deaths incurred when employees are travelling by a direct route from their residence to their workplace, or from their workplace back to their residence after work, four hours before or after working hours on a day when Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 or higher, a Red or Black Rainstorm Warning Signal or "extreme conditions" is in force.

The LD has published the "Code of Practice in Times of Adverse Weather and 'Extreme Conditions'", which provides the major principles, reference guidelines and information on relevant legislation on making work arrangements for the reference of employers and employees. The booklet can be

obtained from branch offices of the Labour Relations Division or downloaded from the department's webpage (www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/wcp/Rainstorm.pdf).

Postal services to Belgium return to normal

Hongkong Post announced today (June 14) that, as advised by the postal administration of Belgium, mail delivery services previously impacted by protests have returned to normal.

LCSD's "The Parent-child Water Play Carnival in Celebration of the 27th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR" to be held on July 1

â€‹To celebrate the 27th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will hold an event called "The Parent-child Water Play Carnival in Celebration of the 27th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR" with the theme of water play in Tsing Yi Northeast Park on July 1 (Monday), offering a variety of fun water activities free of charge for public enjoyment.

The event will be held at the artificial turf pitch of Tsing Yi Northeast Park from 9am to 12.30pm. Members of the public can play water games with different features, such as a fun maze, inflatable fun roller, and giant inflatable pool, on this summer day. The event is conducted in three sessions: 9am to 10am, 10.15am to 11.15am, and 11.30am to 12.30pm. Members of the public who are interested can collect admission tickets in person at the Kwai Tsing District Leisure Services Office or the Tsing Yi Northeast Park Office starting from 8.30am on June 20. Each person is entitled to a maximum of four tickets on a first-come, first-served basis. A small number of tickets will be reserved for walk-in participants on the event day on a first-come, first-served basis.

In addition, a range of fun-filled interactive games will be set up from

9am to 1pm at the outdoor basketball court and piazza. The public of all ages are welcome to join. Admission is free. For enquiries, please contact the Kwai Tsing District Leisure Services Office at 2424 7201 during office hours.

CreateHK restructured as Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency

Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) of the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (CSTB) is restructured as the Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency (CCIDA) with effect from today (June 14), to proactively promote the development of arts, culture and creative sectors as industries under the industry-oriented principle of implementing Hong Kong's positioning as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange under the National 14th Five-Year Plan.

The Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Mr Kevin Yeung, said, "It was announced in 'The Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address' that the Government would take the initiative to restructure CreateHK as the CCIDA, which will play a more proactive and positive role in enhancing its support for the development of the arts, culture and creative sectors."

"The CCIDA will set up new dedicated teams to proactively identify external opportunities for relevant industries and lead them to arrange delegations to various showcases worldwide to export Hong Kong's cultural and creative industries, foster business opportunities and enhance Hong Kong's international status. It will continue to identify suitable and promising projects in relevant sectors to promote the application of cross-sectoral and cross-genre content, and strengthen the support for the industries to enable their content distribution. The CCIDA will further facilitate the creation and production of cultural intellectual property (IP), enable cultural IP transactions, and explore business and commercialisation opportunities to enhance economic benefits," Mr Yeung added.

CreateHK was set up in June 2009 as an office dedicated to promoting the development of creative industries in Hong Kong. After the restructuring, the CCIDA will provide one-stop services and support to cultural and creative industries with a mission to foster a conducive environment in Hong Kong to facilitate the development of arts, culture and creative sectors as industries.

Appointments to Hong Kong Trade Development Council

The Government announced today (June 14) the reappointment of incumbent members Ms Shirley Chan Suk-ling and Mr Victor Chu Lap-lik to the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) for a term of two years with effect from July 1, 2024.

Appointments of members to the HKTDC are made by the Financial Secretary in exercise of the powers delegated to him by the Chief Executive and pursuant to section 11(1)(d) of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council Ordinance (Chapter 1114).

The composition of the HKTDC with effect from July 1, 2024, is as follows:

Chairman

—
Dr Peter Lam Kin-ngok

Members

—
Ms Shirley Chan Suk-ling
Ms Ronna Chao Wei-ting
Dr Lin Yong
Mr Victor Chu Lap-lik
Dr Sunny Chai Ngai-chiu
Dr Kennedy Wong Ying-ho
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
Director of Information Services
Chairman of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries
President of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong
Chairman of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong
Chairman of the Hong Kong Tourism Board
Chairman of the Hong Kong Association of Banks
Representative Member of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Representative Member of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries
Representative Member of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong
Representative Member of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong