

Tender period for improvement works of Fanling Highway (Pak Shek Au Portion) and associated works at Kwu Tung North New Development Area extended

The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) today (November 29) gazetted a notice to extend the tender period for the contract for Kwu Tung North New Development Area, Remaining Phase: Improvement Works of Fanling Highway (Pak Shek Au Portion) and Associated Works (Contract No. ND/2024/05) to noon on December 20.

The CEDD invited tenders for the contract on September 27. The tender period was originally scheduled to expire at noon on December 6. Details of the tender notice are available on the CEDD's website (www.cedd.gov.hk/eng/tender-notices/contracts/tender-notices/index.html).

The CEDD has commissioned AECOM Asia Company Limited to design and supervise the works. For enquiries, please call the company at 3922 9000 during office hours.

Tenders invited for electrical and mechanical works and construction of biological treatment building for Hung Shui Kiu Effluent Polishing Plant Phase 1

The Drainage Services Department (DSD) today (November 29) gazetted a notice to invite tenders for the contract for Hung Shui Kiu Effluent Polishing Plant Phase 1 – E&M Works and Biological Treatment Building (Contract No. DE/2024/09). The closing time for the tender is noon on February 7, 2025.

The works mainly include:

- electrical and mechanical installation works for sewage and sludge treatment facilities of the proposed Hung Shui Kiu Effluent Polishing Plant (HSKEPP) Phase 1;

- design and construction of biological treatment facilities;
- testing and commissioning of the proposed HSKEPP Phase 1; and
- other related works.

The works are scheduled to commence in July 2025 and will take about 64 months to complete.

The DSD has commissioned AECOM Asia Company Limited to design and supervise the works. Interested contractors can download the tender forms and other particulars from the e-Tendering System (e-TS). Tenderers must submit their tenders in electronic format via the e-TS.

Details of the tender notice are available on the DSD website (www.dsd.gov.hk/EN/Tender_Notices/Current_Tenders/index.html). For enquiries, please contact AECOM Asia Company Limited (tel: 3922 9000; fax: 3922 9797; email address: desmond.ng@aecom.com) during office hours.

Proposed road works at Kim Shin Lane in Cheung Sha Wan authorised

The Chief Executive in Council has authorised the proposed permanent closure of and ancillary works at Kim Shin Lane in Cheung Sha Wan to facilitate the Kim Shin Lane/Fuk Wa Street Development Project of the Urban Renewal Authority. The notice was gazetted today (November 29).

Details of the works are set out in the Annex.

Interest rate for Tax Reserve Certificates adjusted

The Inland Revenue Department announced today (November 29) that starting from December 2, 2024, the new annual rate of interest payable on Tax Reserve Certificates will be 0.5500 per cent against the current rate of 0.7167 per cent, i.e. the new rate will be \$0.0458 per month per \$100.

Tax Reserve Certificates bear simple interest, and interest is calculated monthly (including part of a month) from the date of purchase to the date of payment of tax. Interest is only credited when certificates are

used to pay tax, and no interest is due where the principal value of a certificate is repaid to its holder.

The rate of interest payable on Tax Reserve Certificates is reviewed every month based on the average prevailing interest rate for the 12-month time deposit for \$100,000 to \$499,999 offered by the three note-issuing banks.

The new rate will apply to all certificates purchased on or after December 2, 2024. Certificates purchased before December 2, 2024, will continue to earn interest at the rates prevailing on their respective purchase dates. Below is a summary of the interest rates for the past periods:

For certificates purchased on or after June 5, 2023, and before August 7, 2023:	0.8083 per cent per annum
For certificates purchased on or after August 7, 2023, and before September 4, 2023:	0.8833 per cent per annum
For certificates purchased on or after September 4, 2023, and before June 3, 2024:	0.9250 per cent per annum
For certificates purchased on or after June 3, 2024, and before October 7, 2024:	0.8833 per cent per annum
For certificates purchased on or after October 7, 2024, and before November 4, 2024:	0.8000 per cent per annum
For certificates purchased on or after November 4, 2024, and before December 2, 2024:	0.7167 per cent per annum
For certificates purchased on or after December 2, 2024, until further notice:	0.5500 per cent per annum

Interest will cease to accrue after 36 months.

Fourth phase of Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme takes full effect December 1

The fourth phase of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS) will be fully implemented on December 1 to include light emitting diode (LED) lamps, gas cookers and gas instantaneous water heaters.

MEELS was introduced in May 2008 under the Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Ordinance (Cap. 598) (Ordinance), which requires energy labels to be shown on all prescribed products for supply in Hong Kong. The energy labels classify the energy performance of prescribed products into five grades. Products with a Grade 1 energy label are the most energy-efficient. With this concise and easy-to-understand label, consumers can make informed decisions in purchasing more energy-efficient products. Any person who supplies a prescribed product that does not properly bear an energy label or is not a 'listed model' under the Ordinance will commit an offence, and is liable to a fine of \$100,000. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) will inspect retail shops to ensure compliance with the legislation.

Taking the fourth phase into account, MEELS covers a total of 11 types of products, including room air conditioners, refrigerating appliances, compact fluorescent lamps, washing machines, dehumidifiers, televisions, storage type electric water heaters, induction cookers, LED lamps, gas cookers and gas instantaneous water heaters. The fourth phase of MEELS came into effect on September 1, 2023, with a transitional period of 15 months. Upon the implementation of the fourth phase, the additional potential annual energy saving is estimated to be around 570 terajoules (around 160 million kilowatt-hours), equivalent to a reduction of about 75 000 tonnes of carbon emissions per year. The total energy consumption in the residential sector covered by MEELS will substantially increase from about 50 per cent to about 80 per cent.

For more details of MEELS and information on the listed models, please visit the EMSD's website (www.emsd.gov.hk/energylabel).