

[SED attends NAFSA Annual Conference & Expo in New Orleans \(with photos\)](#)

The Secretary for Education, Dr Choi Yuk-lin, led a delegation of representatives of the University Grants Committee (UGC) and UGC-funded universities to attend the NAFSA Annual Conference & Expo in New Orleans, the United States, on May 29 (New Orleans time) to exchange views on the latest developments, strategies and best practices in education with global education experts, and explore collaboration opportunities between Hong Kong and different parts of the world in the area of higher education.

In her speech on "Study in Hong Kong" in a seminar of the event, Dr Choi promoted the competitive edges of Hong Kong as an international post-secondary education hub to overseas partners. She said that Hong Kong is a diverse cosmopolitan city with a highly internationalised higher-education sector. With talented students and esteemed academics from across the world calling Hong Kong their academic home, Hong Kong has become a cradle for future talent.

She pointed out that with the support of national policies, Hong Kong's higher-education sector has been actively complementing the development of the "eight centres". Coupled with the Government's substantial investment and the industry's concerted efforts, Hong Kong provides diversified development opportunities for both local and overseas students. Hong Kong enjoys the dual advantage of being close to the motherland and connected to the world, providing overseas academics and students with a wide array of opportunities. She welcomed overseas counterparts to explore collaboration with Hong Kong's higher-education sector.

Speaking at the seminar, the Secretary-General of the UGC, Professor James Tang, shared insights about the strengths of the UGC-funded universities as well as the latest developments in the areas of teaching and learning, including the launch of the Fund for Innovative Technology-in-Education with a funding allocation of \$100 million by the UGC last year to provide impetus for universities to apply artificial intelligence in transforming pedagogies and enriching students' learning experiences. In the Research Assessment Exercise 2020, around 80 per cent of impact-case studies were rated as "outstanding" or "considerable", the two highest levels. These examples attest to the high quality and impact of research conducted by Hong Kong's higher-education sector.

In addition, Dr Choi visited the Hong Kong Pavilion, which was set up by the Heads of Universities Committee Standing Committee on Internationalisation (HUCOMSCI) and funded by the UGC, to learn about the proactive work of the publicly funded universities in expanding their global network as well as their promotion efforts in recruiting overseas students for further studies in Hong Kong. She also visited booths of various countries and regions at the Expo, and exchanged views with representatives

of the China Education Association for International Exchange, the Department for International Cooperation in Higher Education of Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation, the Qatar Foundation, the Ministry of Education of Saudi Arabia and the National Agency for Exchange and Mobility of Switzerland on the development and promotion of post-secondary education.

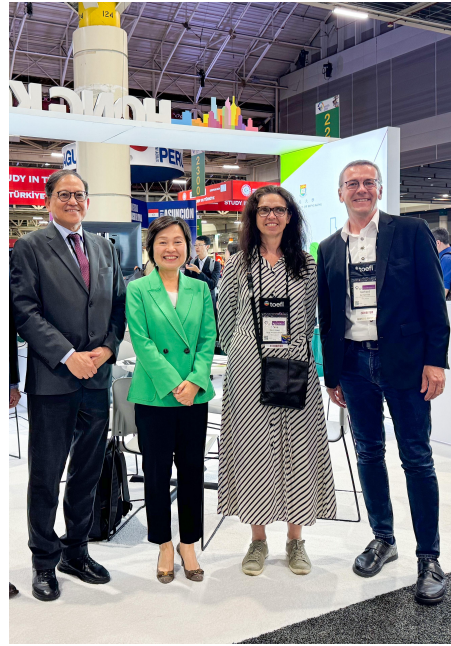
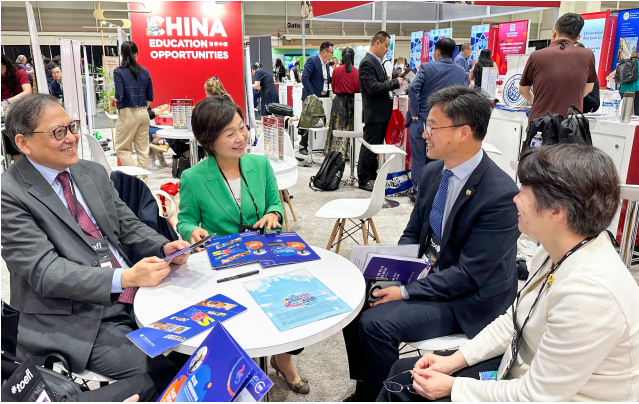
On May 30 (New Orleans time), Dr Choi attended the "Study in Hong Kong" lunch reception organised by the HUCOMSCI. She introduced to overseas education experts the unique advantages of Hong Kong in developing into an international post-secondary education hub, and encouraged more exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and the rest of the world on higher-education development.

She said that Hong Kong has sound education infrastructure, outstanding research talent and strong capabilities in scientific research, and is the only city worldwide with five universities in the world's top 100. The quality of teaching and learning is at the forefront of various international comparative studies, and the brand name of quality education is widely recognised and acknowledged locally and internationally.

She pointed out that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government supports the expansion and quality enhancement of local post-secondary institutions to attract more Mainland and overseas students to study in Hong Kong, so as to promote internationalisation and multi-cultural experiences, and at the same time enable students to have a broader international perspective and diversified choices of development and pathways. In addition, the HKSAR Government has set a target of having 35 per cent of students in UGC-funded programmes pursuing STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) subjects, nurturing talent for supporting Hong Kong's development in digital economy. She looked forward to the fostering of closer collaboration between renowned education institutions around the world and Hong Kong's higher-education sector. She also welcomed more international students to participate in exchange activities in Hong Kong.

Dr Choi will begin her visit to New York on May 31 (New York Time).





Interest on Tax Reserve Certificates

The Government Gazette published today (May 31) contains a Legal Notice to the effect that the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury has authorised a change in the rate of interest payable on Tax Reserve Certificates. From June 3, 2024, the new annual rate of interest will be 0.8833 per cent against the current rate of 0.9250 per cent, i.e. the new rate will be \$0.0736 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 periodically revised in line with the market trend. Currently, it 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 June 3, 2024. Certificates purchased before June 3, 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 January 3, 2023, and before March 6, 2023:	0.5833 per cent per annum
For certificates purchased on or after March 6, 2023, and before April 3, 2023:	0.7500 per cent per annum
For certificates purchased on or after April 3, 2023, and before June 5, 2023:	0.7667 per cent per annum
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, until further notice:	0.8833 per cent per annum

This is always subject to the general rule that interest ceases to accrue after 36 complete months.

[Appointments to industry advisory committees to advise Insurance](#)

Authority

The Government announced today (May 31) the appointments to two industry advisory committees (IACs) to advise the Insurance Authority (IA) on industry-related issues.

The two IACs focus on long-term business and general business respectively. The Financial Secretary has reappointed or appointed 11 non-official members to each of the IACs for a term of two years from June 1, 2024, to May 31, 2026.

A spokesman for the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau said, "Members of the two IACs are experienced practitioners in the insurance industry and related sectors such as actuary, fintech, banking, legal and academia. Their diverse expertise will assist the IA in promoting the stable development of the insurance industry and protecting policy holders.

"We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the four outgoing members for their support and contributions to the IACs during their tenure."

The IACs are statutory committees established under the Insurance Ordinance (Cap. 41) (the Ordinance) on June 1, 2016. The Ordinance stipulates that other than the chairperson, chief executive officer and not more than two other executive directors of the IA, members of an IAC should include eight to 12 other persons with knowledge of or experience in the insurance industry, the conduct of regulated activities and consumer affairs. They are appointed by the Financial Secretary after consultation with the IA.

Following is the list of non-official members of the IACs with effect from June 1, 2024:

Non-official members of the IAC on Long Term Business

Ms Annie Chen Poonis
Mr Alex Chu Wing-yiu
Mr Peter James Crewe
Mr Dick Fong Ho-cheung
Mr Nigel Knowles
Ms Joanie Ko Chung-ling
Ms Lisa Lau Man-man
Ms Selina Lau Pui-ling
Ms Orchis Li Tzy-lan
Mr Bill Song Xuanbi
Mr Wilson Tang Chee-ping

Non-official members of the IAC on General Business

Mr Rohan Bhappu
Mr Jonathan Chen Zhaonan

Mr Cheong Heng-loong
Dr Fung Hong
Ms Polly Ho Kin-wing
Mr Jia Jingwei
Dr Kevin Lau Chung-hang
Mr George Leung Woon-wing
Mr Jimmy Poon Wing-fai
Professor Tang Heiwai
Ms Sally Wan Yuen-wai

Appointments to Commission on Children

The Government announced today (May 31) the reappointment of 13 incumbent non-official members and the appointment of five new non-official members to the Commission on Children (CoC). The new members are Professor Eric Chui Wing-hong, Dr Kevin Lau Chung-hang, Ms Yolanda Ng Yuen-ting, Mr Tony Tse Tsz-fung and Ms Grace Yu Ho-wun. Their appointments will take effect on June 1, 2024, for a term of two years.

The Chief Secretary for Administration and Chairperson of the CoC, Mr Chan Kwok-ki, welcomed the appointments. He looked forward to the members' valuable advice on policy initiatives related to children's development and advancement, and the members' close co-operation with the Government to safeguard children's rights and well-being to enable children to grow up healthily and happily. He also expressed his appreciation to the outgoing members for their efforts and contributions to the CoC.

The major functions of the CoC are to develop policies, set strategies and priorities related to the development and advancement of children, oversee the implementation of relevant policies and services, promote children's rights and fund public educational projects.

The membership list of the CoC with effect from June 1, 2024, is as follows:

Chairperson

Chief Secretary for Administration

Vice-chairperson

Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Non-official members

Ms Karin Ann
Mr Chan Kin-ping
Miss Anna May Chan Mei-lan
Mrs Jennifer Cheng Yu Ngar-wing
Professor Eric Chui Wing-hong
Ms Kathy Chung Lai-kam
Ms Heidi Hui Sim-kiu
Dr Kevin Lau Chung-hang
Ms Joyce Lee Yuen-sum
Ms Winona Lo Oi-ling
Ms Yolanda Ng Yuen-ting
Ms Cindy Pun Siu-fung
Dr Tang Chun-pan
Mr Tony Tse Tsz-fung
Mr Alan Tsoi Ka-lun
Dr Rizwan Ullah
Mr Gary Wong Chi-him
Ms Donna Wong Chui-ling
Miss Koby Wong Lok-yin
Ms Wong May-kwan
Ms Grace Yu Ho-wun

Ex-officio members

Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism
Secretary for Education
Secretary for Health
Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs
Commissioner of Police
Director of Health
Director of Home Affairs
Director of Social Welfare
Chairperson of Family Council
Chairperson of Women's Commission

Cases of making ex gratia payments from Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund gazetted

â€‹The Commissioner for Labour today (May 31) gave notices in the Gazette under section 16(1A) and/or section 18(2) of the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Ordinance (Chapter 380) for cases with ex gratia payments from the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund made to employees.

For details of the notices, please refer to Government Notice Numbers from 3071 to 3099 on the website of the [eGazette of the Government Logistics Department](#).