

Transcript of remarks by FS and Acting SCED after LegCo Ante Chamber exchange session (with photos/video)

The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, together with the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui; the Acting Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Dr Bernard Chan; and the Acting Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Ms Lillian Cheong, met the media after attending the Ante Chamber exchange session at the Legislative Council this morning (May 22). Following is the transcript of remarks:

Reporter: Mr Chan, can you recap in English how do you see the ETO officers get charged in London and the death of one of the defendants? And also other questions, like, is there any latest arrangement on stock trading under extreme weather?

Acting Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development: The task of the Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) is to liaise with the local government, think tanks, different sectors and all walks of life to improve, facilitate or foster collaboration on trade and investment, and also in the areas of arts and culture. My ETO colleagues will continue to liaise with the local government to tell the good stories of Hong Kong.

Financial Secretary: On your second question about trading under severe weather conditions, we have concluded the consultation and are reviewing the views and submissions received during the process. We are going to announce the consultation outcomes towards the middle of this year. That is our timetable. Thank you.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)



Government to introduce resolution to adjust fees payable by banks and other financial institutions to Government prescribed in Second Schedule to Banking Ordinance

The Government served a notice to the Legislative Council (LegCo) today (May 22) to introduce a resolution under the Banking Ordinance to adjust various fees relating to banking licences, establishment of branches and local representative offices (LROs) and registration of approved money brokers (AMBs).

The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui, said, "As announced in the 2024-25 Budget, the Government will review the different fees and charges in a timely manner. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) has recently completed a review on the fees prescribed in the Second Schedule to the Ordinance, and proposes to raise the related fees."

"In making the proposal, the HKMA has taken into consideration relevant factors, including the 'user pays' and cost recovery principles, general price inflation, and the operating cost of the financial institutions, etc. The impact on Hong Kong's competitiveness as an international financial centre has also been assessed and taken into account. As the total licence fees account for an insignificant portion of the total operating expenses of authorised institutions (AIs) and AMBs, we expect that the impact on the affected financial institutions will be minimal after the implementation of the proposal. The financial competitiveness of Hong Kong will also not be affected," Mr Hui added.

Under the Ordinance, AIs (including licensed banks, restricted licence banks and deposit-taking companies), LROs and AMBs are required to pay to the Director of Accounting Services the licence fees, the registration fees, the establishment fees of local and overseas branches or overseas representative offices, upon authorisation or approval by the Monetary Authority, and the relevant renewal fees upon the anniversary in each year of the date on which an AI was authorised (including the fees of the relevant local and overseas branches and overseas representative offices), or the LRO or AMB was approved. The levels of the fees are specified in the Second Schedule to the Ordinance.

Subject to the legislative process, the Government will move the resolution in LegCo on June 12.

[SCST attends high-level meeting on tourism in Xi'an \(with photos\)](#)

The Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Mr Kevin Yeung, attended the 14th China-US Tourism Leadership Summit held in Xi'an today (May 22) and spoke in the thematic seminar session at the invitation of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

"Hong Kong is Asia's world city and an international aviation hub. It has been one of the important gateways for visitors from the United States to travel to Mainland China and Asia for years. Hong Kong is a cultural melting pot of East and West, where we have a rich Chinese heritage while being heavily influenced by the Western culture. The attractive scenery and the diverse culinary offerings that blend Eastern and Western flavours hold great appeal for international visitors. In addition, with our country's staunch support, Hong Kong has been actively developing into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange, staging more and more international cultural, arts and trending events, among which Art Basel has become an annual mega event in Hong Kong, while the United States' largest pop-culture carnival, ComplexCon, also landed in Asia and Hong Kong for the first time this year. Traditional cultural and festive events, including the Dragon Boat Festival races and Christmas celebrations, have also transformed into appealing tourism experiences for both Chinese and foreign visitors. Such developments have provided Hong Kong with mature conditions to combine cultural and artistic activities, sports competitions, and other mega events, thus enhancing Hong Kong's attractiveness to international visitors, including visitors from the United States. Since Hong Kong resumed cross-boundary tourism in February 2023, we have attracted around 800 000 visitors from the United States. We are confident that more visitors from the United States will come to visit Hong Kong this year," Mr Yeung said at the thematic seminar session.

Mr Yeung will return to Hong Kong tonight.



LCQ4: The Hong Kong Museum of the War of Resistance and Coastal Defence

Following is a question by the Hon Maggie Chan Man-ki and a reply by the Acting Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Mr Raistlin Lau, in the Legislative Council today (May 22):

Question:

The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence (MCD) will be converted into the Hong Kong Museum of the War of Resistance and Coastal Defence (MWRCD) in September this year, with more efforts put in promoting the history of the War of Resistance (the War) and the significant contributions made by the Hong Kong Independent Battalion of the Dongjiang Column (the Battalion) during the War. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) as some members of the public opine that the exhibits relating to the Battalion in the MCD are displayed in a scattered and inconspicuous manner, whether the Government will set up a thematic gallery or a thematic exhibition on the Battalion at the MWRCD to serve as a highlight exhibition

of the museum, and whether related exhibits will be consolidated for display in a prominent place, e.g. displaying the Certificate of Commendation issued to the Battalion together with the Roll of Honour listing the names of 115 martyrs belonging to the Battalion;

(2) as there are views that as an important venue for promoting the spirit of resistance and introducing the history of the War, the MCD should seek to create more interactive multi-media presentations, whether the Government has considered increasing the audience seating capacity at the Narrative of the War of Resistance gallery of the MWRCD, so as to allow more visitors to watch the documentary films on the War; and

(3) as there are views that the facilities and services for guided tours at the MCD are inadequately arranged, whether the Government has considered allowing visitors and more organizations to apply for the MWRCD's free guided tour service and enhancing the guided tour system of the MWRCD, e.g. placing guided tour QR codes for the exhibits to provide real-time textual and audio narration, so that the relevant information can be obtained without the need to download the relevant mobile application inside the museum?

Reply:

President,

Since the reopening of the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence (HKMCD) in November 2022 after the completion of revamping its exhibition and repairing its canopy, the HKMCD has seen an attendance of over 270 000, including some 475 school groups visits. In order to let more students learn about the history of the War of Resistance, and to promote patriotic spirit, the HKMCD co-operated with the Education Bureau to invite dozens of school principals to visit the HKMCD in March 2024 and organise guided tours and thematic lectures for teachers in order to encourage the schools to arrange more students to visit the museum. Apart from facing the Hong Kong communities, the museum also received many relevant Mainland authorities, including the National Cultural Heritage Administration, the Museum of the Communist Party of China, Henan Provincial Administration of Cultural Heritage, Shenzhen Municipal Cultural Relics Bureau, and Nanjing Museum, and received positive comments and affirmation from them. Among these authorities, the HKMCD had reached an agreement with Shenzhen Municipal Cultural Relics Bureau to co-organise thematic exhibitions about the War of Resistance in the future. The HKMCD has always valued the opinion received from various groups and individuals, and responded positively in order to keep enriching visitors' experience. Our reply to various parts of the question raised by the Hon Maggie Chan Man-ki is as follows:

(1) The HKMCD will be converted into the Hong Kong Museum of the War of Resistance and Coastal Defence in the coming September. To highlight the theme of the War of Resistance, the museum will group together four galleries related to the history of the War of Resistance, namely "Narrative of the War of Resistance" gallery, "Join Hands to Resist Japanese Invasion" gallery, "Japanese Invasion of Hong Kong" gallery and "Anti-Japanese Guerrillas behind

Enemy Lines" gallery, and name them collectively as "The War of Resistance Galleries". Plaques will be mounted at the upper part of the galleries for easy identification and to facilitate visitors' planning of their routes for a focused exploration of the history of the War of Resistance. Two of the galleries, namely "Narrative of the War of Resistance" gallery and "Anti-Japanese Guerrillas behind Enemy Lines" gallery, will give a detailed elaboration on the Hong Kong and Kowloon Independent Brigade of the East River Column.

The existing "Narrative of the War of Resistance" gallery of the HKMCD includes an area with the theme of "Commemoration of Martyrs", where the names of the 115 members of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Independent Brigade of the East River Column on the Roll of Honour 1941-1945 who died during the period of Japanese occupation are set out in recognition of their contribution to the War of Resistance. Besides the name list, there is an interactive installation entitled "Tribute to Martyrs". With some simple steps of operation, visitors can lay virtual bouquets on the installation to pay tribute to the heroes who sacrificed their lives in the war and during Japanese occupation, recognise their contribution to the War of Resistance, and show respect to them. The aforesaid gallery is also supplemented by a film introducing 16 heroes who have been placed on the List of Anti-Japanese Martyrs and Heroic Groups. As regards the Certificate of Commendation to the Hong Kong and Kowloon Independent Brigade of the East River Column, it is currently on display in the "Anti-Japanese Guerrillas behind Enemy Lines" gallery. In light of the conversion of the HKMCD into the Hong Kong Museum of the War of Resistance and Coastal Defence in the coming September, the HKMCD is actively exploring to enhance the presentation of the certificate together with the name list of the aforesaid 115 members in a prominent manner to allow citizens to show respect more conveniently.

Additionally, the HKMCD will use its special exhibition gallery to hold thematic exhibitions relating to the War of Resistance on a regular basis, and to collaborate more with the relevant Mainland authorities. The first key collaboration project will be an exhibition on the War of Resistance activities of the East River Column in Hong Kong and Shenzhen areas jointly organised with the Shenzhen Municipal Cultural Relics Bureau in September this year.

(2) The "Narrative of the War of Resistance" gallery of the HKMCD gives an account of the history of Japan's aggression against China and Hong Kong's participation in the War of Resistance. It also narrates the missions and contributions of anti-Japanese guerrillas after the fall of Hong Kong. Apart from using exhibition panels, historical photos and exhibits, the HKMCD also complements the exhibition with interactive installations and videos to introduce this period of history to visitors through different media and enrich their museum-going experience. The number of seats currently provided by the HKMCD has already taken into account the pleasant viewing experience for visitors and the available space in the gallery. In order to enrich the visual content, the HKMCD will arrange excerpts from three films by Hong Kong directors about the War of Resistance, namely The Battle of Shanghai, Hong Kong 1941 and Our Time Will Come, to be shown in the multi-media room of the

"Discovery Zone" on the Upper Redoubt to accommodate a larger audience for the screenings.

(3) At present, guided tour service for the public is available at the HKMCD three days per week and on public holidays for public participation. Registered schools and charitable or non-profit-making organisations are also welcome to apply for free guided tour service for groups in other time slots. The 55 docents currently working for the HKMCD have led over 1 700 guided tours in total since the museum's re-opening. In the future, the HKMCD will discuss with the Tourism Commission the feasibility of providing docent training for serving tourist guides.

In addition, an audio guide to the HKMCD's highlight exhibits is already available on the museum website. The HKMCD thanked and has taken on board the Hon Chan Yung's earlier suggestions so that the QR codes of the webpages of those exhibits have been displayed in the museum. Apart from using the iMGuide mobile app for the audio guide to the exhibits, visitors can also scan the QR codes directly to access the information on the exhibits on their webpages. Later, the HKMCD will also add textual guide to cater to the habits and needs of different visitors.

In summary, the HKMCD will continue to listen with an open mind the opinions from the visitors, constantly enhance and enrich the viewing experience, persistently promote the history of War of Resistance and patriotic education. Thank you President.

[LCQ20: Supporting persons with mental disorders](#)

Following is a question by the Hon Chan Pui-leung and a written reply by the Secretary for Health, Professor Lo Chung-mau, in the Legislative Council today (May 22):

Question:

Last year, the Government proposed 10 enhanced measures to support persons in mental recovery who had a history of severe mental disorders and other persons with mental health needs. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) whether it knows the following information in respect of (a) traditional oral drugs and (b) long-acting injections for severe mental illness, as well as (c) new generation oral drugs and (d) long-acting injections for severe mental illness procured and prescribed by the Hospital Authority (HA) in each of the past five financial years: (i) the procurement quantity, (ii) the procurement costs, (iii) the number of persons with severe mental disorders

(i.e. psychiatric patients with schizophrenic spectrum disorder) prescribed such drugs and injections, and (iv) the quantity of drugs and injections as well as (v) the expenditure involved (set out in the table below);

Financial year: _____

Information on oral drugs and long-acting injections	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
(i)				
(ii)				
(iii)				
(iv)				
(v)				

(2) as one of the aforesaid 10 enhanced measures is that the HA will explore the use of newer medicines with fewer side-effects for psychiatric patients, whether it knows if the HA has formulated relevant performance indicators for prescribing new medicines following such exploration; if the HA has, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;

(3) as the HA has earmarked additional funding of around \$127 million in the 2024-2025 financial year to enhance mental health services, and the relevant measures include: (a) enhancing the community psychiatric services by further recruiting additional case managers, (b) strengthening nursing manpower as well as allied health and peer support for psychiatric inpatient and outpatient services, and (c) enhancing the use of long-acting injectable antipsychotics in the treatment of mental illness, whether it knows the details of the funding allocations for the aforesaid three measures;

(4) whether it knows if the HA will explore amending the guidelines to allow earlier prescribing of a new generation of long-acting injections to persons with severe mental disorders, so as to reduce the problems arising from medication non-adherence by such persons or the side-effects they suffer; if the HA will, of the details (including how and when the amendment will be made); if not, the reasons for that; and

(5) whether it knows the following information in respect of the HA's Early Assessment Service for Young People with Psychosis Programme in the past five years: (i) the number of cases received, and among them, of the respective number of cases in which referral, assessment and treatment services were provided for patients, with a breakdown by age group, and (ii) the measures implemented under the programme to enhance public awareness of early psychosis, the number of reaches concerned and the public response respectively, and whether the authorities have assessed the effectiveness of such measures; if the authorities have, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Reply:

President,

The reply to the question raised by the Hon Chan Pui-leung is as follows:

(1) The Hospital Authority (HA) Drug Formulary currently contains over 20 psychiatric drugs for the treatment of mental illness and related diseases. The HA will continue to keep abreast of the latest developments of clinical and scientific evidence on psychiatric drugs and review the use of psychiatric drugs in accordance with the established mechanism.

The table below sets out the number of patients prescribed with conventional and new generation antipsychotic drugs (Note 1) and the drug expenditure involved in the HA from 2019-20 to 2023-24 (up to December 31, 2023):

Financial year	Conventional antipsychotic drugs			New generation antipsychotic drugs		
	Number of patients prescribed with oral drugs	Number of patients prescribed with long-acting injectable antipsychotics	Drug expenditure involved (\$ million)	Number of patients prescribed with oral drugs	Number of patients prescribed with long-acting injectable antipsychotics	Drug expenditure involved (\$ million)
2019-20	35 200	9 900	42	94 400	3 700	280
2020-21	32 500	9 400	41	99 400	4 100	313
2021-22	30 300	9 000	35	104 300	4 400	344
2022-23	28 300	8 500	42	107 300	4 600	365
2023-24 (Projection as of December 31, 2023)	27 200	8 300	32	111 300	5 000	392

Note 1: Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

Note 2: The drugs prescribed may vary from time to time based on the clinical conditions and needs of patients. Some psychiatric patients may be prescribed both oral and injectable psychiatric drugs concurrently.

(2) and (4) The HA has been taking measures to increase the use of new generation psychiatric drugs with fewer side effects and proven clinical efficacy, including antipsychotic drugs, antidepressant drugs, drugs for dementia and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder. One of the ten enhanced measures announced by the Government in June 2023 is that the HA will also explore prescribing newer oral drugs or injections with fewer side effects for psychiatric patients in need to facilitate better medication compliance of patients.

The curative effects of conventional and new generation psychiatric drugs are similar, but they differ in that they work through different neurotransmitter pathways to achieve the desired effects and have different potency and side effect profiles. Psychiatrists will prescribe the appropriate drugs for patients mainly based on the principle of minimising side effects.

Taking into account the patients' wish, psychiatric doctors will provide patients with the necessary oral drug or long-acting injectable antipsychotic treatment as appropriate, having regard to their individual circumstances and clinical needs (including the patient's drug

compliance and drug tolerance). Depending on the clinical conditions and needs of patients, psychiatric patients may be prescribed both oral and injectable psychiatric drugs or not prescribed any drug at all, and the dosage of drugs may change from time to time. Therefore, the HA has not set any relevant indicators for prescribing new drugs.

(3) The HA delivers mental health services through an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach involving psychiatric doctors, psychiatric nurses, clinical psychologists, medical social workers and occupational therapists. The HA adopts this multi-disciplinary team approach to allow flexibility in manpower deployment to cope with service needs and operational requirements. The HA has earmarked an additional funding of about \$127 million in the financial year of 2024-2025 for relevant measures to enhance mental health services, of which about \$50 million, \$15 million and \$62 million will be used respectively to further enhance community psychiatric services by further recruiting additional case managers, to strengthen nursing manpower as well as allied health and peer support for psychiatric inpatient and outpatient services, and to enhance the use of long-acting injectable antipsychotics in the treatment of mental illness. As healthcare professionals in the HA usually provide support for a variety of psychiatric services, the manpower and expenditure for supporting individual psychiatric services cannot be separately quantified. The above breakdown is for reference only.

(5) The Early Assessment Service for Young People with Early Psychosis (E.A.S.Y.) Programme of the HA aims to identify patients with psychosis as soon as possible and provide them with intervention services. Multi-disciplinary medical teams provide targeted and continuous support to patients, including psychiatric specialist outpatient services and community support services. The initial service targets of the programme are patients with psychosis aged between 15 and 25, and the service period is the first two years after the onset of the illness. In 2011-12, the HA extended the service targets of the programme to patients aged between 15 and 64, and the service period was extended to the first three years of the onset of the illness, benefiting more patients.

The main services of the E.A.S.Y. Programme include providing case assessment and formulating treatment plans for patients, as well as providing relevant mental health education and organising thematic seminars and workshops to enhance the understanding of psychosis and the E.A.S.Y. Programme among social workers, teachers, parents, etc. Over the past five years, about 1 100 to 1 200 new patients diagnosed with psychosis joined the E.A.S.Y. programme each year.

The table below shows the service attendances of the E.A.S.Y. Programme and number of health education thematic seminars of the HA from 2018-19 to 2022-23:

	Service attendances of the E.A.S.Y. Programme (Note 3)	Number of health education thematic seminars
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2018-19	41 000	180
2019-20	43 100	47
2020-21	46 800	9
2021-22	43 600	22
2022-23	38 800	30

Note 3: The number of attendances includes telephone contacts, interviews and community visits with patients. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

Remark:

In view of the COVID-19 epidemic outbreak in Hong Kong in early 2020, the HA has adjusted its services to cope with the outbreak. This should be taken into consideration when comparing the service capacity of the HA in previous years. With the subsiding local COVID-19 epidemic situation and cessation of anti-epidemic measures in early 2023, the HA has been gradually resuming provision of all of its public healthcare services to tie in with the Government's resumption of normalcy measures.