

SCST congratulates Hong Kong men's foil team on winning gold medal

The Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Mr Kevin Yeung, today (May 4) extended his congratulations to Hong Kong's fencing athletes Cheung Ka-long, Ryan Choi, Leung Chin-yu, and Aaron Lee on their outstanding performances and achievements of winning the first and historical gold medal, in the Men's Foil Team event of the FIE Foil World Cup – Hong Kong, China.

Mr Yeung said, "Cheung, Choi, Leung, and Lee put on excellent performances in the competition. They have won the well-deserved medals, showcasing Hong Kong athletes' perseverance and team spirit. We share the team's joy and are honoured of their achievement. We are very proud by the performances of Hong Kong fencers for their repeated success at international competitions."

The FIE Foil World Cup – Hong Kong, China was held from May 1 to 4 at the AsiaWorld-Expo, Hong Kong.

AFCD appeals to public to avoid visiting country parks

Under inclement weather, flooding and landslides occurred in some areas including in some country parks in Sai Kung and Clear Water Bay. In this light, a spokesman for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) today (May 4) appeals to members of the public to avoid visiting country parks for the time being.

The spokesman noted that due to the adverse weather conditions, there were reports of flooding and landslides in Sai Kung and Clear Water Bay. Some roads were closed temporarily. As to landslides caused by heavy rain within the country parks, the AFCD has notified the department concerned to follow-up.

In view of the risks of flash floods and landslides, the spokesman urged members of the public to avoid visiting country parks or engaging in any activities in the concerned areas, especially in country parks in Sai Kung and Clear Water Bay. Members of the public should also pay attention to weather forecasts when planning outings. Those who are in country parks at the moment should immediately take shelter in a safe place.

Red flag at Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach lowered

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (May 4) that the Environmental Protection Department has classified the water quality at Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach in Tsuen Wan District as Grade 3, which means the water quality has improved and the beach is suitable for swimming. The red flag has been lowered.

The red flag was hoisted on the beach earlier on due to the water quality being classified as Grade 4 and unsuitable for swimming.

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

The Labour Department (LD) today (May 4) 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).

HAD opens temporary shelters (2)

The Red Rainstorm Warning Signal is still in force. Temporary shelters opened by the Home Affairs Department are at the annex.

For enquiries, please contact the HAD's hotline on 2572 8427.