

# Civil Service Newsletter

April 2021 Issue No. 109



Protect yourself and others  
Get Vaccinated



## Fight the virus Get vaccinated



(This Newsletter is also available on the CSB website at <http://www.csb.gov.hk>)

# Contents



## Features

Ensuring Security and Stability across Hong Kong 3-8

## Close up

2021 Census: Provide Data for Hong Kong's Future 9  
Quarantine Camps to fight against COVID-19 10-11  
Innovation in sewerage services and flood protection 12-13  
Knowledge Inheritance at Environmental Academy@Smart Venue 14-15

## Pensioners' Corner

A lifelong journey of pursuing dreams 16-20

## Information

Appointment of Senior Officials 20  
Video talk to enhance civil servants' awareness of safeguarding national security 21  
Colleagues are welcome to join the Civil Service College Logo Design Competition 21

## Health

Be breast aware at all times 22-23

## Centre Spread

Protect yourself and others Get Vaccinated 24

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# Ensuring Security and Stability across Hong Kong

*Civil Service Newsletter Editorial Board*



Mr Lee shared his insights on security-related policies in Hong Kong.

**MR** John Lee, the Secretary for Security, started his career in the Government in 1977 as a probationary Inspector in the Hong Kong Police Force (the Force). He took up the present appointment as the Secretary for Security in 2017. Mr Lee recalls how a life-changing incident when he was young ignited his passion to join the Force and maintain law and order. He also shares some major policy initiatives under his extensive portfolio as head of the Security Bureau.

## A destined career

Mr Lee recalls his first encounter with gangsters when he was a primary school student, "I was playing with my friends and catching fighting spiders on a hillside one day, and we suddenly came across some gangsters who threatened us with a knife, punched us in the chest and took all our money. While I was a kid then, I began to realise the importance of law and order to the community and its people." Prompted by this incident, and coupled with a growing interest in investigation work, Mr Lee joined the Force in 1977 and started his lifelong career for the important mission of upholding law and order of the community.

There were many unforgettable moments as well as unforgettable cases for Mr Lee during his service as a police officer. Looking back at the times in the Force, Mr Lee said that the case of Cheung Tze-keung, a gangster nicknamed "Big Spender" who headed a Hong Kong crime syndicate, was one of the most prominent cases that he had handled. He reflected, "Cheung kidnapped and extorted well-off and high-profile individuals and kept more than 800 kilograms of hidden explosives in a remote place in the northern New Territories. The Police had to carry out 24/7 surveillance duties over a protracted period with

a view to monitoring the gang's exact whereabouts. As members of the gang were notoriously reckless and impulsive, we had to be extremely careful in planning and executing every detail of the operation in order to capture the gang while ensuring the safety of our team and other fellow citizens. Finally, with meticulous planning, nerves of steel and team effort, we made a successful operation to capture the culprits and the explosives on the spot, and dealt a serious blow to the gang."

## From front-line operation to policy making

Mr Lee was promoted to the post of Deputy Commissioner in 2010, before leaving the civil service and taking up the appointment as the Under Secretary for Security in 2012. He was appointed the Secretary for Security in 2017. He compared his roles in the Force and the Security Bureau (SB), "In the disciplined service department, the focus is very much on the missions and outcomes. With detailed planning, the chances of successful execution are high, with a fairly immediate and direct positive impact on the public. Policy making in SB is relatively more complex in nature with less immediate but longer-term impact on the public. The process also requires collaboration with and balance of interests among different stakeholders."

Mr Lee's experience in the Force laid a solid foundation for developing his extremely resilient mindset in dealing with wide-ranging challenges. He noted, "The decision-making skills developed during my days in the Force are particularly useful in my current position. I constantly encounter situations in which I need to weigh up the pros and cons of different strategies and make tough yet pragmatic decisions in upholding law and order for Hong Kong."

## Upholding national security and maintaining law and order

On the enactment and implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) (the National Security Law) on 30 June 2020, Mr Lee remarked, "Hong Kong was wrecked by violence since a year ago. The violent events were triggered not merely by some people in Hong Kong, but there was also foreign intervention.



Mr Lee (right) participated in a street signature campaign in support of the Decision on establishing and improving the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to safeguard national security by the National People's Congress.



Mr Lee (right) visited the "restricted area" in Jordan to show his support to colleagues from the Correctional Services Department.

## Fighting the epidemic

At a time when Hong Kong is fighting the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the combat against the epidemic is surely another key priority for SB and the departments. Mr Lee continued, "The fight against COVID-19 is an urgent task. We have deployed some 2,000 civil servants from the six disciplined services and two auxiliary forces to support the Government's anti-epidemic work. Our colleagues have played a critical role in various areas such as quarantine execution, law enforcement, contact tracing, mask production, compulsory testing operations at specified "restricted area", etc. Volunteer teams formed by our officers have also helped to set up the quarantine centres

including installing equipment and moving furniture upstairs without lifts at Chun Yeung Estate. I would like to thank all colleagues and the volunteer teams for their great efforts and contributions in helping to fight the epidemic."

## Enhancing cross-boundary traffic flow

There is at present only one land boundary control point (BCP) at Huanggang / Lok Ma Chau between Hong Kong and Shenzhen which operates on 24-hour basis. To enhance the connectivity between Hong Kong and Shenzhen as well as other cities in the Greater Bay Area, the Government is taking active measures to enhance cross-boundary traffic flow further. Mr Lee said, "The Government is working closely with the Mainland authorities to strengthen, revitalise and realign all its land BCPs. The move seeks to direct cargo traffic to the east and west sides of Hong Kong with Shenzhen – the Liantang / Heung Yuen Wai Control Point in the east and the Shenzhen Bay Port in the west, both operating on 24-hour basis. The remaining three BCPs, namely the Huanggang / Lok Ma Chau, Man Kam To and Sha Tau Kok BCPs, will mainly be used for passenger traffic, save for vegetable and live food trucks which can continue to use the Man Kam To Control Point for inspection purposes."

The failure of the HKSAR Government in enacting legislation under Article 23 of the Basic Law has left a loophole for national security threats. We are pleased to see the enactment of the National Security Law by the National People's Congress, which has successfully restored stability and order in Hong Kong and driven away the overseas elements. However, we must still stay vigilant to threats which may endanger national security. The Government will adopt short, medium and long term strategies to continuously safeguard national security and maintain law and order in Hong Kong."

Mr Lee highlighted, "With the implementation of the National Security Law, we have seen less public order offences and vandalism of public facilities. Statistics show that within five months after its implementation, the number of public events related criminal offences had reduced sharply by about 50%, with a continued steady decline to date. One of the biggest challenges we now face is to rebuild the public's law-abiding awareness. The Government is working on this together with stakeholders across Hong Kong society and is, for example, ramping up collaborations and initiatives with schools and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The school programme rolled out under the 3-billion Beat Drugs Fund is a case in point."

Mr Lee said, "In 2019, there were around 200 million people and 7 million cargo trucks crossing the boundary. This realignment of BCPs will not only help reduce traffic congestion in central Shenzhen, but will also create better synergy so that passengers will enjoy a much faster Customs, Immigration, Quarantine (CIQ) service."

The Huanggang Port will undergo a major redevelopment, and the existing facilities and transportation support will be upgraded under the project. A Mainland Port Area and a Hong Kong Port Area will be co-located in the same building to enhance clearance efficiency. The CIQ service facilities currently located in Lok Ma Chau will then be relocated to the Hong Kong Port Area of the new Huanggang Port to facilitate passenger flow. Mr Lee said, "The Huanggang Port project may also serve as a model for revitalising the Lo Wu Control Point in future."

**Handling non-refoulement claims**

The Government has been working hard to address the problems arising from non-refoulement claims made by illegal immigrants and overstayers. Mr Lee talked about the challenges of the need to process a large number of such cases each year, "Many claimants abuse the system, and even after the Immigration Department has examined the cases in detail and found them unsubstantiated, the claimants will further abuse the appeal procedure by procrastinating to extend the claims process."

Mr Lee elaborated, "Some claimants indicate that they have psychological issues due to torture in their home country and are referred to the hospital for professional assessment. However, they may refute the doctor's professional opinions, fail to turn up for scheduled medical board meetings, or refuse to provide related medical reports, thus making it difficult for Immigration Officers to assess whether they are subject to the torture as alleged. Others may allege that they cannot understand English and request for an interpreter for translation to their native language, when in reality they use English on day-to-day basis." Mr Lee further pointed out, "For a person to be repatriated, it is essential to verify the validity of his travel document with the relevant Consul General, but at present this verification can

only start after the case has been entirely resolved. In the event that the claimant is procrastinating, the whole process will be extended. The Government will seek amendments to the Immigration Ordinance to address these problems so as to improve efficiency in case processing."

Records show that 99% of non-refoulement claimants cases in Hong Kong are found to be unsubstantiated, with such cases being economically rather than politically motivated. Mr Lee added, "Many claimants enter Hong Kong to look for better employment opportunities, as on average they would be able to earn two to four times the wage that they could make in their home countries, or even up to 20 times for some who come from remote rural communities. There are obvious incentives for such parties to come to Hong Kong for a living. To help prevent these economic emigrants from entering Hong Kong, the proposed amendments will also empower the Secretary for Security to request airlines to provide passenger manifests before the planes take off, so that any people suspected to be coming for making non-refoulement claims may be refused boarding on the flights to Hong Kong in the first place."

**Improving fire safety in buildings**

With over 10,000 aged buildings that have fire safety facilities not up to the current standard, it has always been a key priority of the Government to enhance fire safety in buildings, yet there is a need to overcome a number of challenges. Mr Lee said, "Firstly, the fire safety responsibility lies with the building owners. While the Government has launched the \$5.5 billion Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme to subsidise building owners to undertake the required fire safety improvement works for around 6,500 buildings built before 1987, some buildings do not have sufficient physical space to retrofit water tanks on the roof. Moreover, in some cases, the owners may not be able to agree among themselves on the location of the newly installed fire safety facilities, whereas in some other cases, there



Mr Lee (left 15) accompanied the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam (centre) to visit the headquarters of the Government Flying Service.

may be no Owners' Corporation to help manage multiple owners or the owners cannot be located at all. In the face of these challenges, the Government will examine how, in exceptional circumstances, to intervene and conduct the fire safety improvement work of the aged buildings, and then require the owners to shoulder related costs."

Mr Lee said that the Fire Services Department (FSD) has adopted a pragmatic approach in helping building owners meet the fire safety standards, "FSD is now providing greater flexibility to enable the aged buildings to meet the minimum fire safety standard. For example, a 2,000 cubic metres water tank was initially required for all six-storey buildings, whereas now, in areas that can be readily accessible by FSD fire trucks, the water tank size can be reduced to 500 cubic metres, which is sufficient to control fire spread before firemen arrive at the fire scene. Three-storey buildings are also allowed to use sufficiently-powered pumps instead of installation of a water tank."

**Assisting juveniles in rehabilitation**

To maintain social order, young people who have violated the law must be given the right message on the importance of being law-abiding citizens. The Government is taking numerous measures to help rehabilitate juvenile offenders. Mr Lee affirmed, "For

arrestees under the age of 18 who have expressed contrition and are not involved in serious offences, the Police can consider cautioning them under the Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme in place of criminal prosecution with a view to facilitating the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders — allowing them a second chance and avoiding them from getting a criminal conviction. The juvenile offenders would normally be under supervision for two years, with the support from NGOs, social workers and their families." This early intervention and rehabilitation for juvenile offenders helps engender in them a new value system and a positive roadmap for their lives. Mr Lee highlighted its success, with the recidivism rate down to single digits of around 6 to 9%, as compared with 20 to 40% for prisoners.

Mr Lee added, "From a holistic perspective of juvenile development, education is also an important part. The Education Bureau has issued guidelines to schools to enhance students' law-abiding awareness, especially after the implementation of the National Security Law. The Government has also enhanced public education in this respect via social media, traditional media and publications. NGOs, social workers, academics, artists, as well as key opinion leaders and media, who have strong influence on young people, can all help as well."



Mr Lee (second right) inspected the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Fire Station Cum Ambulance Depot.

## Service enhancement with innovation and technology

As the Government strives to promote innovation and technology development, the disciplined services departments have also been sparing no efforts in leveraging new technology to enhance their management efficiency and services to the public. Mr Lee said, "The Force is using handheld devices for scanning vehicle's license plate and automatic printing of fixed penalty ticket for illegal parking, which help eliminate human errors in traditional handwritten tickets. This is much faster and automatically creates a legal record, including the exact time and location of the offence. The Customs and Excise Department makes use of big data as a risk assessment tool to identify cargoes which should be inspected among the massive volume of cargo traffic every day. The Correctional Services Department (CSD) has been developing the 'Smart Prison' concept in modernising the correctional facilities. Electronic tags worn by prisoners can track their real-time locations and medical conditions including their heart rates. This helps CSD staff to identify certain vital signs and check on the prisoners timely to immediately intervene on suspected suicidal cases. As for the Immigration Department, apart from the existing e-Channel services, the self-service departure clearance service ("Smart Departure") speeds up immigration clearance for visitors departing Hong

Kong through face-recognition technology." Mr Lee added, "Radio frequency identification tracking system and Internet of Things are adopted by FSD for asset tracking and monitoring of dangerous goods, including chemicals and explosives. The Government Flying Service also uses the latest radar and infrared systems to help search and rescue missions. Going forward, we will continue to encourage the disciplined services departments to make good use of innovation and technology in delivering our work."

## Aside from work

When not at work, Mr Lee enjoys practising *qi gong* (氣功) (which literally translates as "cultivating chi"), a deep breathing technique that helps with meditation. He explained, "Once upon a time, I used to get tired and sick quite easily, and despite going to both Chinese and Western doctors, found no cures. Then, I stumbled upon *qi gong* and have been practising it for over 20 years now. If I ever become overloaded with work, I will take time out for around 30 minutes to an hour of *qi gong*. It is a fantastic long-term investment that helps both my physical and mental health."

## Future success

On the future of Hong Kong, Mr Lee said, "I have strong confidence that Hong Kong can overcome the present challenges and see lights in the right direction." Mr Lee encouraged all civil service colleagues, as backbone of the Government, to walk an extra mile and make further contributions, "While there may always be diverse views on government policies, it is important for us all to make a sound judgement on the feedback received from the stakeholders. We need to carefully reflect on these comments and then take pragmatic measures to improve our service further. I am confident that our civil service, with its professionalism and dedication, will rise to the challenges and continue to provide staunch support for the effective governance of our community."

## 2021 Census: Provide Data for Hong Kong's Future

Census and Statistics Department



**HONG** Kong will conduct the decennial Population Census from 23 June to 4 August this year. This massive project will cover the entire community of some 7.5 million people. The Population Census aims to obtain up-to-date benchmark information on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population as well as its detailed geographical distribution. The information is useful for the planning of social services and facilities both at the territory-wide level and in your local community.

About nine-tenths of households will be subject to a simple enumeration to provide basic demographic information of their household members. The remaining one-tenth of households will be subject to more detailed enquiry on a broader range of demographic and socio-economic characteristics of their household members.

### Multi-modal data collection approach

The 2021 Population Census (the Census) will be conducted in two phases. During the first phase starting on 23 June, households may choose to complete their questionnaires online or via telephone. Those households selected for simple enumeration may also complete and mail back the questionnaires to the Census and Statistics Department (CenStatD).



Hotline 18 2021

During the second phase starting on 18 July, our census officers will visit those households which have not yet responded to the survey, to collect the required information.

Our census officers will carry a Census Officer Certificate of Identity for households to identify them easily.



### Complete online questionnaire, reduce face-to-face contact

To reduce face-to-face contact and maintain social distancing, we appeal to households to provide



Online Census: Convenient, Secure and Green

the requested information by completing the online questionnaire of the Census, which is also convenient, secure and environmentally friendly. Households may activate the online questionnaire by scanning the QR code on the notification letter/questionnaire or via the secure thematic website of the Census ([www.census2021.gov.hk](http://www.census2021.gov.hk)).

### Information collected will be kept in strict confidence

Information collected in the Census regarding individual persons and households will be kept in strict confidence and will not be released to any unauthorised parties (including government departments). Such information will only be used for compiling statistics and not for any other purposes.

### Information on the Census

CenStatD has set up a thematic website to provide information and services relating to the Census for members of the public.



[www.census2021.gov.hk](http://www.census2021.gov.hk)

**The Census counts everyone, so everyone counts!**  
**Please support the 2021 Population Census!**



# Quarantine Camps to fight against COVID-19



Temporary quarantine camps at Lei Yue Mun Park.

Architectural Services Department

**THE** Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic spread rapidly around the world throughout 2020. Without locking down, the Government adopted immigration control at borders and compulsory quarantine arrangements as the first lines of defence, coupled with further strengthening hygiene awareness among the public. Initially, the compulsory quarantine demands far outnumbered the available quarantine facilities, creating an urgent need to increase quarantine facilities to stave off the virus' spread in the local community.

## Record-paced facility construction

The Architectural Services Department worked closely with various bureaux, departments and contractors to provide over 4,100 new quarantine units in stages within a tight 10-month timeframe. Several strategies were employed to expedite this, including the refurbishment of existing quarters, erection of new habitable units at open-air areas in existing government venues and virgin land sites. The conversion for the first 88 units was completed within nine days, and the subsequent 118-unit newly-built quarantine camp was established in only 26 days, leveraging record-paced contract procurement, design and construction. The facility was built just in time to receive travellers returning from an Iranian tour.

The largest quarantine camp of 3,500 units was built in the Penny's Bay. The latest phase which included 2,000 units with supporting facilities for medical, security, rescue, logistics and telecommunications was delivered within three months. Comprehensive master planning was effected with due consideration of zoning, hygiene control, landscaping, traffic, daily operation and construction phasing. Each unit was equipped with individual bedroom and bathroom, with natural ventilation through openable windows supplemented with standalone air-conditioning units for better hygiene. Quarantine units were intentionally segregated into clean and dirty zones. Easy-to-clean materials and enhanced drainage design were adopted to lower the risk of possible spread of viruses and germs.



Liaison meeting with the Fire Services Department, contractors and designers.

## Working together, turning risk into opportunities

Looking back, construction of this magnitude at such a speed was the first of its kind in Hong Kong. This success was attributed to the tremendous efforts and passion from the whole construction industry. Government departments gave strong support, with stakeholders all sharing the common goal: **Together WE fight COVID-19**. Dedicated frontline workers also played a vital part in the race against time to help save lives. They performed diligently and rigorously 24/7, irrespective of the weather, and did everything they could to strive for the earliest possible completion of works. The construction of quarantine camps has turned risks into opportunities, and we have witnessed the passion for innovation and the joining of hands across the entire construction industry. We certainly hope to see this spirit of innovation reaching new heights in the continuous betterment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The success of construction of quarantine camps was attributed to tremendous efforts and passion from the whole construction industry.



Frontline workers performed diligently and rigorously irrespective of the harsh working environment, coldness and rain, for accomplishment of the construction work.



"It was a memorable experience before my retirement in December 2020. I felt delighted to work hand in hand with colleagues in the Government and the whole construction industry to complete these quarantine camps."

Mrs Sylvia Lam, former Director of Architectural Services

## Innovation in sewerage services and flood protection

Drainage Services Department



**THE Drainage Services Department (DSD) is committed to providing Hong Kong with professional and efficient wastewater and stormwater drainage services, which play a vital role to uphold the proper functioning of the society.**

Solar farm at Siu Ho Wan Sewage Treatment Works.

### Flood prevention to riverside green construction

In the past, DSD emphasised a “three-pronged” approach: upstream stormwater interception and direct discharge to the sea, temporary flood storage via midstream storage tanks, and drainage improvements downstream, together with river regulation works, to mitigate flooding risks. Since 1995, a total of 127 flooding black spots have been eliminated as a result of these measures.

DSD continues to innovate and push forward with the concept of “Rivers in the City” to complement government initiatives in making Hong Kong an even more liveable city. DSD actively engages in river revitalisation works, in addition to ensuring suitable drainage capability of the rivers. Examples include improvement works in the Kai Tak River, the Upper Lam Tsuen River and the Ho Chung River. Serving beyond the purpose of flood prevention, these works help demonstrate the multifunctionality of water bodies. To build a green and liveable “riverside city”, DSD has formulated several schemes to revitalise existing river channels, including the Tsui Ping River and the Tung Chung Riverside Park, and is proceeding to evaluate the revitalisation potential of existing nullahs across Hong Kong.

In conjunction with the flood prevention infrastructure, DSD has also set up a 24-hour drainage hotline to deal with choked drains. During the

2019-20 reporting period, the hotline received about 31,900 cases requesting assistance. More than 99% were followed up within 24 hours, and customer satisfaction on the follow-up work exceeded 99%.



Photo montage of revitalisation of the Tsui Ping River.

### From waste to energy

Over the years, DSD has achieved remarkable results in improving sewage treatment. For instance, the “Harbour Area Treatment Scheme” (HATS) has significantly improved the water quality of Victoria Harbour. Apart from bringing the water quality up to the standard required for resuming the city’s cross-harbour race, HATS has also enabled the reopening of beaches adjacent to Tsuen Wan. Construction of dry weather flow interceptors (DWFI) in various districts to further improve coastal water quality is underway. DSD installed four DWFIs in coastal areas in Tsuen Wan in 2019 and is now carrying out construction works of four new DWFIs in Kowloon West.



Happy Valley Underground Stormwater Storage Scheme.

Relocation of the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to caverns.

Today, DSD's sewage treatment services cover more than 93% of the local population. The department has been extremely supportive of environmental protection initiatives. Its proactive involvement in the research and development of waste-to-energy technologies, coupled with its efforts in optimising existing sewage treatment facilities, is propelling Hong Kong towards its ambitious goals for carbon emission reductions. Among the facilities that mainly adopt biogas, hydropower and solar power for renewable energy sources, those that convert the flow of sewage into electricity are expected to produce up to 120,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity each year. In addition, DSD is testing the technology of co-digesting food waste and sewage sludge at the Tai Po Water Treatment Works to convert biogas into electricity. In the interim, DSD is relocating the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to adjacent caverns to further promote sustainable development in Hong Kong. The relocation plan will vacate about 28 hectares of land for other uses that will benefit the community. With an advanced sewage treatment system, the new treatment works can be housed in the caverns, thus reducing the required land area for the facility to 14 hectares.

## Sewage testing to fight the epidemic

To help curb the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), DSD, the Environmental Protection Department, and the University of Hong Kong have formed a team of experts to help

fight against the epidemic by adopting innovative methods in the research and development stage. Applying their professional knowledge to conduct drainage network analysis and devise sampling and testing plans, the team has successfully helped identify multiple asymptomatic carriers. The first confirmed case was also the first-ever success in detecting the COVID-19 virus in the community via sewage surveillance and mandatory testing orders. At this critical moment, DSD, in addition to performing its daily flood prevention and sewage treatment duties, has spared no effort in conducting sewage tests to help combat the epidemic together with all the efforts of the public.



The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam (second right), accompanied by the Secretary for the Environment, Mr Wong Kam-sing (first left), and the Director of Drainage Services, Ms Alice Pang (first right), visited a sewage sampling site set up by DSD.

Immediately after assuming the post of Director of Drainage Services (also being the first female director of a works department) in November last year, Ms Alice Pang was tasked with combating the challenges arising from the fourth wave of the COVID-19 outbreak in Hong Kong. DSD not only has to cope with the impact of the epidemic, but also has to maintain quality services in flood prevention and sewage treatment. At the same time, DSD must also take precautions to respond to the challenges brought about by various issues such as climate change—actively engaging in environmental protection and energy conservation, as well as exploring renewable energy options. Ms Pang upholds the people-oriented spirit of DSD and leads the team in continuously serving the public with excellence during this trying time.

# Knowledge Inheritance at Environmental Academy@Smart Venue

Environment Bureau / Environmental Protection Department

PEOPLE are like seeds of many varieties held in your hand, each of them holds great potential. Nurturing staff is akin to providing good soil and essential nutrients for the seeds to grow and prosper.

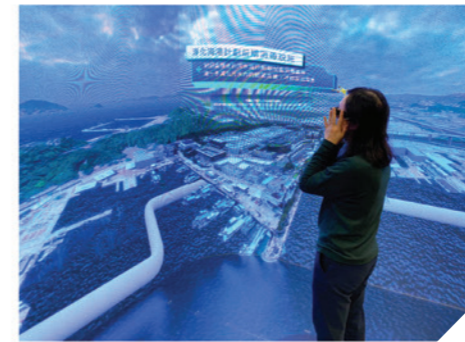
With this in mind, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) established the Environmental Academy (the Academy) in May 2018. More than 1,000 colleagues, both professional and technical grade staff, have already benefited from the training programmes offered. Below are a few of the testimonials made by trainees and trainers.



Official opening of the Environmental Academy@Smart Venue in November 2020.



Feature wall made entirely from recycled cardboard boxes.



Training facilities include immersive Cave Automatic Virtual Environment.



Corridor designed and decorated with Big Waster and policy-related animations.



Upcycled furniture made from waste materials.

"I joined EPD in 2018, and fortunately the Academy was established at that time. The Academy is a great platform for knowledgeable trainers to pass on their experience and skills to us — giving us a solid start."

Environmental Protection Inspector (attending the First Graduation Ceremony of the Environmental Academy in 2020)

"The refresher training programme offered by the Academy reviews fundamental knowledge and helps trainees brush up their skill sets with up-to-date information."

Environmental Protection Officer (with the Department for many years)



The Secretary for the Environment, Mr Wong Kam-sing (centre) exchanged views with Academy graduates.

"As a newcomer, I am very happy to join EPD. The establishment of the Academy and resources deployed clearly demonstrate that the Department places human capital as a top priority. The Academy has equipped us with the skills and knowledge we need to meet the challenges ahead."

Assistant Environmental Protection Officer

"I really enjoyed sharing my knowledge and experience with all these young and energetic new recruits, and their feedback during the Q&A session proved insightful."

Programme trainer

EPD has further upgraded its training facilities to meet the growing demands in training needs and offer a more systematic training approach — establishing the Environmental Academy@Smart Venue (the Venue).

The Venue was officially opened in November 2020, marking a new milestone for human resources development in the Department. EPD continues to strive for further advancement, passes on knowledge and experience, keeps staff abreast of the latest developments, and encourages open-mindedness and innovation. More importantly, the new space also serves

as a hub for colleagues to share and discuss ideas — nurturing collegiality with a real sense of belonging.

Inspired by the famous Chinese writer Mr Lu Xun, the Secretary for the Environment, Mr Wong Kam-sing, designed the Environmental Academy logo to symbolise the spirit of sharing knowledge and passion for the environment from the mouths of one generation to ears of the next.



The Venue is well equipped with a variety of training facilities. These include the immersive Cave Automatic Virtual Environment — a technological innovation providing staff with immersive 2D and 3D training experiences. Through the 3D geographic information presented in the virtual tour, trainees can quickly grasp the current state of the environment.

To highlight the importance of sustainable development, eco-friendly interior design and decors have been incorporated into the Venue. These include upcycled furniture made from waste materials including recycled timber marine fenders.

A feature wall showcases the use of old cardboard boxes, with strips of cardboard being fashioned and handcrafted to form a Hong Kong skyline that features famous landmarks including Hong Kong's first waste-to-energy facility, the T•Park.

The Environmental Academy will continue to make the best use of its new venue and training facilities and provide high-quality training to enhance the environmental expertise of all staff.

# A lifelong journey of pursuing dreams

*Civil Service Newsletter Editorial Board*

**PASSIONATE** and persistent, Mr Li Chi-hung, Ben pursued his dreams in becoming a Land Surveyor. Progressive and proactive, he has been committed to leveraging the application of three-dimensional laser scanning technology during his career in serving the community.



Mr Li Chi-hung, Ben first joined the civil service in 1979 under the Trainee Surveyor Training Scheme and retired as Senior Land Surveyor of the Lands Department (LandsD) in 2019. During his 40 years of dedicated and enthusiastic service in LandsD and other works departments, he had introduced three-dimensional (3D) laser scanning technology in various applications like searching missions and heritage conservation. Looking back on his time in the civil service, Mr Li shared, "For person who is dedicated and persistent in doing what he is passionate about and keep this up from day to day, 'a Butterfly Effect' will emerge over time with unexpected results."

## Start of the journey

Growing up in Choi Hung Estate, Mr Li has developed a strong will since an early age. He is a person who will not give up easily. When he was a student, he had once failed in the English subject in the public examination but was not beaten. Instead, he worked even harder by self-study for a retake and finally got satisfactory results. Soon after taking up his first job in banking, he realised that being an outgoing person, he was more inclined to outdoor surveying, measurement and planning jobs. He then decided to apply for the post of Survey Officer Trainee in the then Public Works Department (now the Development Bureau). Mr Li recalled, "Right after my induction, I was posted to the then Waterworks Office (now the Water Supplies Department). At that time, many of my colleagues were working hard to acquire professional qualifications. I was so inspired that I made a crucial decision — to sit for the examination leading to accreditation by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) in order to acquire the professional qualifications as a Land Surveyor." However, to Mr Li's surprise, RICS discontinued its examination arrangements in Hong Kong. Though disappointed, Mr Li did not give up, and continued to find a way to work towards his goal. While working in the then Waterworks Office during daytime, Mr Li took a part-time course at the then Hong Kong Polytechnic (currently known as the Hong Kong Polytechnic University) in the evening, and in parallel, worked as a part-time tennis tutor, so as to get prepared for undertaking a one-year postgraduate diploma course at the University College London (UCL). He continued, "Studying part-time while working at the same time made my schedule extremely hectic. Sometimes I felt really exhausted both physically and mentally, I would then pluck up the courage to keep fighting



Mr Li studied at the University College London as a mature student to realise his dream of becoming a Land Surveyor.

for my dreams, no matter how difficult that might be." Finally, Mr Li managed to set off to realise his dreams at the UCL. He was 28 then. He said, "As a mature student with five years' working experience in the then Waterworks Office and a grasp of the fundamentals on land surveying, I had an edge over other classmates in the course. Besides, my supervising professor was also a lover of tennis and we made good friends as we had this common interest. Thanks to his support, I was lucky to have been invited to transfer to courses for a master's degree. Given such a precious opportunity to further my studies at the postgraduate level, I worked hard with firm commitment and perseverance, rising to the challenges ahead to make my dreams come true. I finally graduated and became a professionally qualified Land Surveyor. The topic of my dissertation was about 3D intersections, knowledge of which was required for and put into effective use in my future jobs — what a coincidence!"

## 3D laser scanning technology advancement with the times

Mr Li shared, "My studies mainly focused on two-dimensional theory and application at that time because of the lack of 3D-related equipment. We seldom had the chance to come across 3D

technologies. It was not until the mid-90's that 3D laser scanning technology became more common. The high-speed 3D laser scanning technology can help capture 3D coordinate data of a measured object's surface far more efficiently than the traditional method, especially over large areas. When I was a newcomer to the land surveying field, two-dimensional equipment was still the mainstream. Thanks to speedy technological advancement, 3D laser scanning technology has allowed several breakthroughs and can now survey a million sample points per second, facilitating the drawing of precise floor plans and record keeping of complete sets of building data to be used for building conservation and restoration. Surveyors have, all along, been advocating a combination of 3D laser scanning and Building Information Modelling technologies to complement each other for better management of all relevant conditions related to building lifecycles."

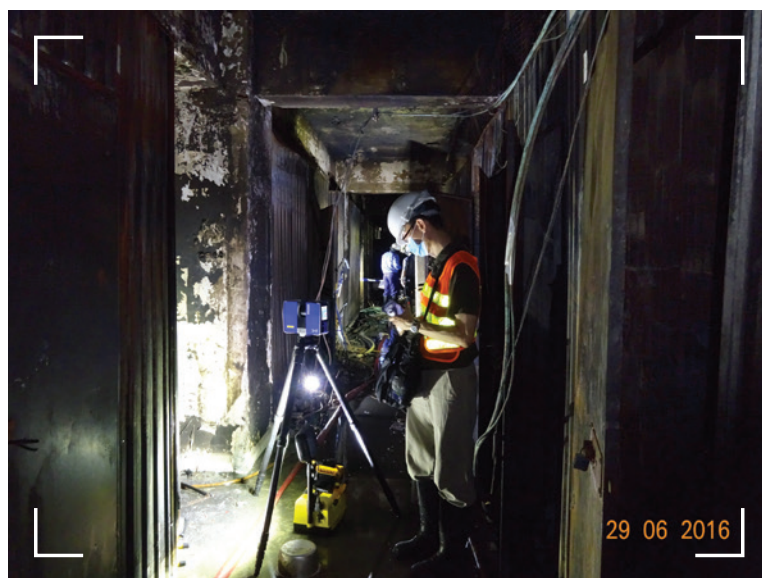
After working in the then Waterworks Office for several years, Mr Li was posted to LandsD, responsible for land boundary surveying. He was then posted to the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), which had just acquired new 3D laser scanning equipment for slope measurement. The 3D laser scanning technology came into good use in the demolition of the former Star Ferry Pier. Mr Li said, "At the time, the officer responsible for the demolition project had just been posted out and I was deployed to

take it over. This was the first time for me to lead a team in leveraging 3D laser scanning technology to capture the Pier's precise coordinates for its future relocation and reprovisioning. Later, I was tasked with the Queen's Pier demolition project and led my team to conduct surveying work at the site using 3D laser scanning technology and record accurate metrological building information."

Mr Li had also applied 3D laser scanning technology to assist in the investigation of some major incidents, such as the garage explosion in Wong Tai Sin in 2015 and the fire in mini-storage sites of the Amoycan Industrial Centre in Ngau Tau Kok in 2016. Mr Li noted, "It was the first time for the Fire Services Department (FSD) to adopt 3D laser scanning technology in the investigation of accident scenes. My team and I had spent five days scanning the sites to draw accurate and precise floor plans and topographic maps, and to produce a 3D model of the building to help FSD calculate the exact volume and extent of the fire damage for forensic purposes."

### Application of 3D scanning technology to scale new heights

Never one to sit still and with a keen interest in trying something new, Mr Li served as a docent for the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum (the Museum) in his spare time, responsible for introducing to the visitors the history of the Museum and explaining to them the significance of the application of 3D



Mr Li conducted 3D laser scanning at the fire scene of mini-storage sites located in Amoycan Industrial Centre.

Mr Li (right) presented to the Antiquities Advisory Board the advantage and importance of applying 3D laser scanning technology in heritage conservation.

laser scanning technology in the preservation of such a historical monument. He explained, "The Museum was originally the former residence of Sir Robert Ho Tung's younger brother, Ho Kom-tong and was subsequently under the possession of a religious organisation. Later, the Government acquired the property and converted it into the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, which has been opened to the public since 2006." Mr Li's experience as a docent opened a new door for him to gain recognition of what he had all along been doing, which manifested the so-called unexpected 'Butterfly Effect'. He explained, "One day the Chief Assistant Secretary of the Commissioner for Heritage's Office visited the Museum on a guided tour and I was the docent to lead the exploring tour to the Kom Tong Hall. After listening to my presentation, the Secretary was interested to know my opinions about the 3D visualisation techniques employed by The Chinese University of Hong Kong to produce 3D architectural models. I explained to her the shortcomings of 3D visualisation techniques that relied on digital photographic tools as compared with 3D laser scanning, which could leverage millions of survey points to obtain much more accurate, multi-dimensional and timely coordinate data of surfaces." Impressed by Mr Li's views, the Secretary later presented the model made by Mr Li using 3D laser scanning technology for consideration of the Antiquities Advisory Board and promoted the advantages and importance of using the technology in heritage conservation.

Apart from heritage conservation, Mr Li had once employed 3D technologies to assist in underwater search. He recalled, "In 2010, a helicopter took off from the Hong Kong Macau Ferry Terminal in Sheung Wan. Minutes later and followed by a loud bang, the tail rotor fell off, forcing an emergency landing of the helicopter in Victoria Harbour. The Civil Aviation Department (CAD) investigated the incident and retrieved most of the tail wreckage, except the tail rotor. The Marine Department also



assisted in searching for the tail rotor by deploying surface acoustic wave sensors to search the seabed, yet efforts were in vain. Victoria Harbour is around 20 metres deep. With the size of the tail rotor being as small as that of three shoeboxes, the underwater search was typically a case of finding a needle in a haystack. The huge amount of debris on the seabed made it even more difficult to accomplish the mission." At that time, Mr Li was working in CEDD. His superiors asked him if he could think of a way to help. Mr Li jumped at the chance and in no time conducted an on-site investigation with his colleagues. He explained, "Having found that there were three closed-circuit television cameras in the adjacent area, we collected the footage concerned for detailed analysis. By applying the concept of 3D scanning technology, we triangulated the approximate coordinates of the location where the tail rotor dropped into the sea. With the exact area of waters determined with accurate 3D data, relevant departments confined their vigorous search efforts to that area. Good news was heard a few days later. The lost tail rotor eventually came out of the vast expanse of the harbour." Ready to embrace challenges and the dynamic in making use of 3D technologies, Mr Li was presented with a Letter of Commendation by CAD in recognition of his outstanding performance in helping with the search.

## Life after retirement

With technological development and advancement, the application of 3D laser scanning technology has become increasingly common nowadays. Mr Li noted, "3D laser scanning has various industrial applications and is also beginning to gain traction



for commercial use. Interior design companies and global retailers are already utilising this technology to visualise designs and renovations, and create virtual showrooms to provide better user experience." Talking about his retirement plans, Mr Li stressed, "I wish to continue with my 3D laser scanning work and plan to start a consulting firm in this regard when the epidemic subsides." In the past, quite a number of graduates with surveying majors sought advice from Mr Li on how to start working in the surveying field, leverage opportunities therein and rise up to the challenges ahead. He said, "It's great to see so many young new faces with passion in surveying. I am more than happy to share my experience and all that I know with them."

Finally, Mr Li shared the tips of living with passion and motivation, "My tips are quite simple, but they are very useful indeed. I like playing tennis with my friends and we always play against each other. As time goes by, I have become a person who is not

afraid of losing and have learnt how to tackle failures. I would simply practice more to sharpen my skills and play more to keep up the spirit of competition and build up my confidence." Mr Li stressed, "I am always ready to accept changes. To me, getting retired is just retiring from a post. I could still see hopes in my future and even set new goals for my retirement life. I am confident that I can achieve these goals one by one. I trust that if we keep our passion for life and continue to do what we like after retirement, even though our life pattern changes, we can still enjoy our retirement life by turning a new page and living each day to the fullest."

Mr Li introduced the career path in land surveying field to secondary school students.



## Information

### Appointment of Senior Officials

Effective from	Name	Post
December 14, 2020	Ivan Lee Kwok-bun	Commissioner for Efficiency
December 18, 2020	Winnie Ho Wing-yin	Director of Architectural Services
December 21, 2020	Chris Sun Yuk-han	Commissioner for Labour
January 4, 2021	Ivan Chung Man-kit	Director of Planning
January 18, 2021	Doris Ho Pui-ling	Head, Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office
February 1, 2021	Agnes Wong Tin-yu	Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)/Director of Housing
	Carol Yuen Siu-wai	Director of Marine
February 8, 2021	Kevin Siu Ka-yin	Commissioner of Rating and Valuation
February 23, 2021	Vivian Lau Lee-kwan	Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)
March 1, 2021	Patrick Li Pak-chuen	Director of Broadcasting
April 14, 2021	Irene Young Bick-kwan	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
April 15, 2021	Vivian Sum Fong-kwang	Commissioner for Tourism

## Video talk to enhance civil servants' awareness of safeguarding national security

Civil Service Training and Development Institute  
Civil Service Bureau



15 April this year marks the first National Security Education Day after the implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)

(the National Security Law). The Civil Service Bureau (CSB) has launched a video talk on the National Security Law to strengthen civil servants' awareness of safeguarding national security. The talk is delivered by the Deputy Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, Mr Deng Zhonghua.

The Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Patrick Nip, sent an email to Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments on 12 April to encourage civil service colleagues to watch the video talk,

with a view to enabling them to have a more thorough understanding of the National Security Law. Colleagues may log onto our web-based learning portal, "Cyber Learning Centre Plus", to watch the video talk. In addition, bureaux and departments will make arrangements for civil servants appointed on or after 1 July 2018 and at Master Pay Scale Point 14 or above (or equivalent) to watch the video talk as part of their induction training.

"The civil service is the backbone of the HKSAR Government. I expect all civil service colleagues, particularly the new recruits, to have a correct understanding of the National Security Law and an enhanced awareness of safeguarding national security, and to act in accord fully with the HKSAR Government in discharging its duty of safeguarding national security." Mr Nip said.

## Colleagues are welcome to join the Civil Service College Logo Design Competition

Civil Service Training and Development Institute  
Civil Service Bureau



The Civil Service Bureau (CSB) is actively making preparations for the establishment of the Civil Service College (the College) in 2021 to further enhance civil service training in terms of both quality and quantity. In this connection, we have launched the Civil Service College Logo Design Competition (the Competition) for all serving colleagues (including civil servants and non-civil service contract staff) and retired civil servants, encouraging them to give play to their creativity in designing a logo for the College and join our efforts in promoting the

objective of the College as an institution dedicated to civil service training.

Colleagues are cordially invited to join the Competition. For details, please feel free to visit the CSB website or the Cyber Learning Centre Plus (<https://www.clcplus.cstdi.gov.hk/clcplus/logo/>). The deadline for submission of entries is 21 May 2021.



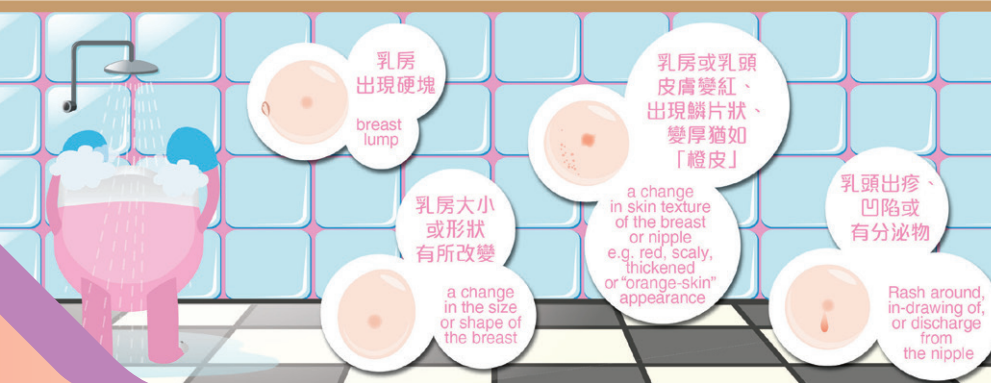
Details of the Competition

# Be breast aware at all times

Department of Health

## 時刻關注乳房健康!

Let's be breast aware at all times!



**BREAST** cancer is the most common cancer among women in Hong Kong, and more than 4,600 women were newly diagnosed with breast cancer in 2018. It also killed over 850 women in 2019. To fight against breast cancer, let's start with raising women's awareness about breast health and breast cancer prevention.

### Breast awareness

Hong Kong Cancer Registry data analysis shows that the five-year relative survival rate for Stage I – III breast cancer (76% – 99%) is much higher than that for Stage IV (30%), indicating that the earlier the breast cancer is detected, the earlier women can initiate treatment and the more likely they will survive. Therefore, every woman should be breast aware and familiar with the normal look and feel of her breasts, and be aware of any unusual breast changes below during daily activities (e.g. showering, getting dressed and putting on body lotion):

- breast lump;
- a change in the size or shape of the breast;
- a change in skin texture of the breast or nipple (e.g. red, scaly, thickened or "orange-skin" appearance);
- rash around, in-drawing of, or discharge from the nipple;
- new and persistent discomfort or pain in the breast or armpit;
- a new lump or thickening in the armpit.

If you notice any unusual breast changes, consult your doctor promptly.

### Breast cancer prevention

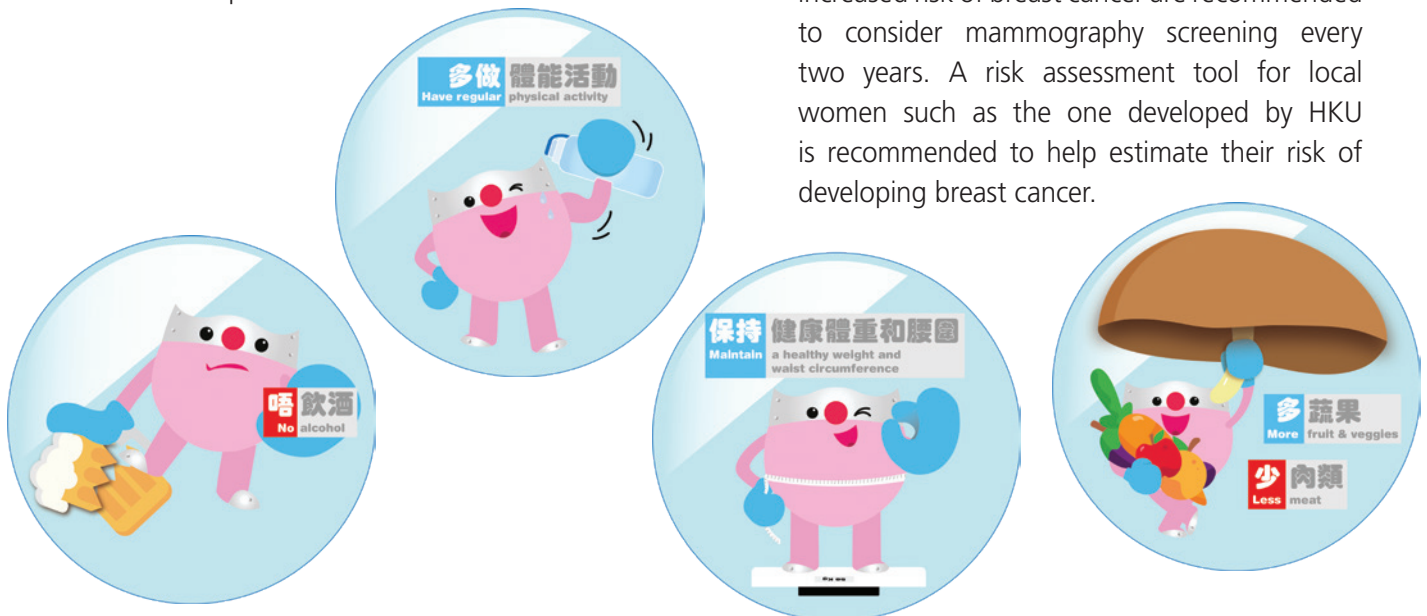
The Government commissioned the University of Hong Kong (HKU) to conduct a large-scale Hong Kong Breast Cancer Study (the Study) to analyse the local risk factors of breast cancer and then develop a breast cancer risk assessment tool, which has been validated for the Hong Kong Chinese female population. This tool estimates a woman's personal risk of developing breast cancer so that she can work with a doctor in making an informed decision for breast cancer screening. Moreover, the Study found that in addition to age-related risk, other risk factors for breast cancer include:

- family history of breast cancer among first-degree relatives (mother, sister or daughter);
- prior diagnosis of benign breast disease;
- never having given birth or having their first live birth at a late age (at or above the age of 30);
- early age of first menstruation (at or below the age of 11);
- being overweight or obese (body mass index (BMI)\* 23 or above);
- physical inactivity.

\*BMI = Weight (kilograms) / Height (metres)<sup>2</sup>

Women can adopt healthy lifestyles to reduce the risk of getting breast cancer, such as:

- having regular physical activity;
- avoiding alcohol consumption;
- maintaining a healthy body weight and waist circumference (aim for BMI between 18.5 and 22.9, and a waist circumference of not more than 80 cm for women);
- having childbirth at an earlier age and breastfeeding each child for a longer duration, whenever possible.



## Recommendations on breast cancer screening

Breast cancer screening serves to help detect breast cancer before it gives rise to symptoms so that women can receive treatment earlier. The Government's Cancer Expert Working Group on Cancer Prevention and Screening (CEWG) recommends adopting a risk-based approach for breast cancer screening and has made screening recommendations for women in different risk profiles as follows:

**(a) Women at high risk** (e.g. carriers of confirmed *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* gene mutations, with a strong family history of breast cancer or ovarian cancer, etc.) are recommended to seek their doctor's advice and have mammography screening every year.

**(b) Women at moderate risk** (i.e. with a family history of only one first-degree female relative with breast cancer diagnosed at or below the age of 50, **or** two first-degree female relatives diagnosed with breast cancer after 50) are recommended to undertake mammography screening every two years.

### (c) Other women in general population

Women aged 44 – 69 with certain combinations of personalised risk factors that place them at increased risk of breast cancer are recommended to consider mammography screening every two years. A risk assessment tool for local women such as the one developed by HKU is recommended to help estimate their risk of developing breast cancer.

Please note that all screening tests have their limitations and are not 100% accurate. Screening may lead to potential risks, such as false-positives and false-negatives, over-diagnosis and over-treatment. Women who are considering breast cancer screening should first discuss the related pros and cons with their doctors.

Information on breast cancer prevention and screening can be found on the Cancer Online Resource Hub <https://www.cancer.gov.hk/breastcancer>. The breast cancer risk assessment tool developed by HKU will also be launched in the Resource Hub later in 2021 for public access.





2019冠狀病毒病  
疫苗接種計劃  
COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

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