

26 May 2016

For Immediate Release

## **Competition Commission launches "Fighting Bid-rigging Cartels" Campaign**

The Competition Commission (Commission) kicks off its "Fighting Bid-rigging Cartels" Campaign (Campaign) today to raise community awareness of bid-rigging as well as to educate on how to detect and prevent bid-rigging through a series of advocacy initiatives on the topic.

Bid-rigging cartels can occur in any market where tender processes are used. The problem of bid-rigging in the residential building renovation and maintenance market has been the subject of particular community concern. The results of a recent study conducted by the Commission would be consistent with the widely held belief that bid-manipulation practices occurred in the local residential building renovation and maintenance market in the recent past. The results also reinforce the Commission's need to advocate and educate the public on the topic of bid-rigging.

Mr Philip Yung Wai-hung, Permanent Secretary for Commerce & Economic Development (Commerce, Industry & Tourism), Ms Anna Wu Hung-yuk, Chairperson of the Commission, and Ms Rose Webb, Chief Executive Officer of the Commission, together with representatives from the Hong Kong Police Force, ICAC, Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (Hong Kong Branch) and the Institute of Purchasing & Supply of Hong Kong, officiated at the kick-off ceremony for the Campaign today to launch a series of activities on fighting bid-rigging including a TV announcement, educational videos, brochures and a territory-wide roving exhibition.

Ms Anna Wu Hung-yuk said, "Bid-rigging has been a matter of grave public concern because of its potential to cause significant harm to consumers and the economy as a whole. Under the Competition Ordinance (Ordinance) which came into full effect last December, it is now illegal to agree not to compete on a tender. Bid-rigging cartels are serious anti-competitive conduct under the Ordinance and combating bid-rigging cartels is a major enforcement priority for the Commission.

The Commission will use the full extent of its powers to end such behaviour. We will also work closely with other law enforcement agencies and public bodies to ensure a coordinated and effective approach to tackling bid-rigging cartels in Hong Kong.

Aside from enforcement efforts, we believe advocacy work is equally important thus we are launching the 'Fighting Bid-rigging Cartels' campaign today to raise community awareness of bid-rigging. With our advocacy efforts, we hope the Hong Kong community will be able to better understand different types of bid-rigging and adopt measures to minimise their risk of being exposed to such conduct."

The Commission today published two brochures, namely "Fighting bid-rigging" and "Getting the most from your tender". The former brochure outlines common types of bid-rigging and guidance on what to do should bid-rigging be suspected while the latter provides tips for procurement officers to minimise the risk of bid rigging through strengthened tendering process. A series of educational videos in which hypothetical examples of bid-rigging are

dramatised have been produced to facilitate easy understanding of these messages. The brochures and educational videos are now available on the Commission's website ([www.compcomm.hk](http://www.compcomm.hk)).

To further educate and reach out to the community, a Roving Exhibition on fighting bid-rigging will be shown at four locations across Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories. The Exhibition will feature informative panels on how to prevent, detect and combat bid-rigging. There will also be interactive electronic games where members of the public can learn anti bid-rigging tips in a fun and innovative way.

Below are the details of the Exhibition and members of the public are welcome to join.

Exhibition Schedule:

28 - 31 May	Covered Piazza, Times Square, Causeway Bay
6 - 9 June	UG2 (Zone B), Lok Fu Plaza, Wang Tau Hom
13 - 16 June	Event Hall, UG/F, Citywalk, 1 Yeung Uk Road, Tsuen Wan
20 - 23 June	Atrium, G/F, E-Max, Kowloon Bay International Trade & Exhibition Centre, Kowloon Bay

\*Free admission

Opening hours: 11am - 9pm.



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(From left) Mr David Lee, Vice-Chairman, The Institute of Purchasing & Supply of Hong Kong; Mr Joe Lee, Head, Corruption Prevention Advisory Service, ICAC; Ms Rose Webb, Chief Executive Officer, Competition Commission; Mr Philip Yung, Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism); Ms Anna Wu, Chairperson, Competition Commission; Mr Ho Chun-tung, Tony, Superintendent, Organized Crime & Triad Bureau, Hong Kong Police Force, and Ms Grace Tsang, Secretary, Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (Hong Kong Branch) officiated at the “Fighting Bid-rigging Cartels” Kick-off Ceremony.