

Counterfeit HK\$1,000 Banknote
(2000 and 2002 Series issued by HSBC)

General

- The Police are committed to combating counterfeit currencies, particularly against manufacturers and distributors.

Background

- A new variation of counterfeit HK\$1,000 banknote (imitation of 2000 and 2002 series issued by the HSBC) was first detected on 10.3.2007.
- Up to 22.3.2007, 1 306 pieces were seized, and 25 persons were arrested in Hong Kong for 'Passing Counterfeit Banknotes', including six non-Hong Kong residents (one Vietnamese and five Two-Way Permit holders). Seizure of the same counterfeit in Macao has also been reported.
- Police investigation so far points to the likelihood that the new variation of counterfeit HSBC HK\$1,000 banknote is produced outside Hong Kong.

Actions taken by the Police

- Upon first detection of the new variation of counterfeit, the Police immediately notified the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA).
- The Police have established dedicated teams to collate, analyse and investigate all intelligence relating to the new variation of counterfeit.
- The Police have immediately triggered intelligence exchange with their counterparts in Guangdong, Shenzhen and Macao on the issue. They have also notified the Interpol and other relevant law enforcement agencies.
- In consultation with the HKMA, the Police have undertaken wide publicity to warn the public about the counterfeits, including a press conference held on 15.3.2007 and the setting up of a public enquiry hotline. The Police also provide the media with regular updates on developments in their enforcement effort.
- The Police have taken an active part in seminars organized by the HKMA and retail associations to brief the business community on the features of the new variation of counterfeit.

Way forward

- The Police will continue their law enforcement efforts.

Hong Kong Police Force
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