

HK ban: Another blow to bird's nest traders

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A YEAR after China imposed ultra strict requirements on bird's nest from Malaysia, effectively barring its direct entry to mainland China, traders have been told that their products are also banned in Hong Kong, which is a special administration region of China.

According to a report in *Nanyang Siang Pau* yesterday, the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) has notified bird nest traders via an SMS that effective July 1, they could no longer export bird's nest to Hong Kong until permission is given by the Chinese authorities.

Malacca Bird's Nest Merchants Association

deputy chief Liu Zhong Liang disclosed on Saturday that DVS had notified the Federation of Malaysia Bird's Nest Merchants Association of the ban recently.

Meanwhile, association president John Chen Joon Onn told the daily that the mainland Chinese account for 70% of the world's total bird's nest consumption, and Hong Kong is the hub of world bird's nest trade.

He said the federation held an extraordinary general meeting last week during which it passed a motion to hold a peaceful gathering at the Chin Woo Stadium in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday to appeal to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak to step in to resolve the year-old problem facing bird's nest traders.