Lam recalls ferry disaster at news quiz

The October 1 ferry disaster off Lamma Island is still vivid in the mind of Chief Secretary Carrie Lam Ching-Yu-Zing-Ing.

At the launch of this year's Top 10 News selection yesterday, Lam recalled that she was involved in handling the tragedy, visiting the injured in hospitals and attending the funerals of some victims.

The inquiry into the disaster, in which 39 people died, opened on Wednesday.

The annual selection of stories, co-organised by The Standard, Sing Tao Daily, Commercial Radio, EBC TV and 6 Cable, gives Hong Kongers a chance to vote for the top news of 2012 until the final weekend of December 31.

Entrants whose selections match the final list of Top 10 News Stories 2012 will have the chance to win prizes such as an overnight stay at a five-star hotel with breakfast.

"I have appreciated news workers' work," Lam said. "They play a significant role in which they sometimes criticize the government's work."

To help voters, organizers have compiled a list of 39 leading news events plus one extra dubbed "other" to allow voters to choose either social, financial or political news.

Five students from the Anglicans Kifflong Primary School were among the first to vote.

Fung Man-chien, 11, chose the row surrounding Secretary for Development Paul Chan Mo-po, whose wife owns a subdivided flat in Tai Kok Tsui.

Wong Chun-hing, 11, went for former chief executive Donald Tsang Yam-kuen accepting the hospitality of tycoons and travelling on a private jet in Thailand for pleasure.

CANDY CHAN