



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

Friday, January 6, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Occupational Retirement Schemes (Amendment) Bill 1995 .....	1
Improvements to Local Student Finance Scheme .....	3
District board by-election scheduled .....	4
Statement on briefing out of BMFL case .....	5
Statement on execution of Hong Kong woman .....	5
Ceremonial opening of 1995 Legal Year .....	6
Temporary closure of Queen's Pier .....	7
Tenders invited for civil engineering works at airport .....	7
New pre-chlorination house at Tai Lam Chung .....	8
Sewer improvement works for Yuen Long planned .....	8
Inquiry into sinking of ship ordered .....	9
Air mail services to Rwanda resume .....	10
35 biotechnology projects apply for funding support .....	10
54 Ex-China Vietnamese illegal immigrants repatriated .....	11
Green light for flood protection works .....	12
Trends in empowerment of disabled persons .....	12
Ma On Shan Outline Zoning Plan amended for housing developments .....	15
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations .....	17

Occupational Retirement Schemes (Amendment) Bill 1995

\* \* \* \* \*

The Government has proposed to amend the Occupational Retirement Schemes Ordinance to enable occupational retirement schemes to be administered and monitored more effectively.

A Government spokesman said today (Friday) that these proposed changes were in line with the Government's objective in promoting the popularity of private sector occupational retirement schemes.

Details of the proposed amendments are contained in the Occupational Retirement Schemes (Amendment) Bill 1995 published in the Gazette today.

The spokesman said the Bill would enable scheme administrators of pooling agreements to pool together the assets of participating schemes of the same pooling agreement.

The spokesman explained that under section 21 of the existing Ordinance, administrators of schemes governed by trust were required to keep separate the assets of each scheme to help ensure that the scheme assets were not misapplied.

"However, this requirement has caused practical problems to trustee administrators of pooling agreements where they, in practice, combine not only the administrative duties but also the assets of each participating scheme.

"Strict separation of assets between each of the participating schemes is costly to administer, inhibits diversification of investment and also results in lower returns for scheme members.

"This would discourage the retirement schemes of small-scale employers from joining a pooling agreement and thus defeat the main purpose of forming such agreements.

"Provided that the assets of each scheme are kept separate from the employer and remain under trust, their physical separation from other schemes within the pool is unnecessary," the spokesman said.

Another proposed amendment seeks to enable scheme assets to be invested in mutual funds and in the listed shares of companies on stock markets not recognised by the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC).

The spokesman said section 27 of the Ordinance required that no scheme assets should consist of investment in the share capital of a company or body corporate the shares of which were not listed on the Unified Exchange or any stock market recognised by the SFC.

"Concerns have been expressed by scheme administrators and their investment managers about this restrictive provision which prohibits investment in shares listed on emerging stock markets in, for example, Taiwan, Indonesia and Spain. Unintentionally, this provision also bans investment in mutual funds.

"If the bill is enacted, scheme administrators may invest scheme assets without limit in mutual funds and up to 15 per cent in the listed shares of companies on stock exchanges not recognised by the Securities and Futures Commission but legally established and regulated as stock exchanges in accordance with the laws of the jurisdictions in which they are established.

"We consider these concerns justified and propose to relax the restriction, while continuing to prohibit investment in private companies," the spokesman said.

Additionally, the Bill also seeks to impose the requirement to obtain the approval of the Registrar of Occupational Retirement Schemes to make certain changes in the registered particulars of a scheme which may materially alter the grounds upon which the scheme has been registered or exempted, and to impose penalties for breaches of such requirements.

The proposed amendments will also enable the Registrar to amend the occupational retirement scheme register where circumstances so require; to prescribe the payment of fees for requested changes in scheme particulars; to cancel the registration of a scheme upon its termination or winding up; and to make rules relating to the approval and notification procedures for changes.

The Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council on January 18.

End/Friday, January 6, 1995

### Improvements to Local Student Finance Scheme

\* \* \* \* \*

An additional of some 6,200 tertiary students are expected to benefit from an improvement package to be introduced under the Local Student Finance Scheme from 1995/96 academic year.

The improvements to the Local Student Finance Scheme approved by the Finance Committee today (Friday) include:

- (a) Exclusion of the assets of the applicants' siblings in determining the level of financial assistance;
- (b) Allowing for deduction of the accommodation expenses of the applicants' siblings on hostel fees or rented accommodation who are studying at tertiary or post-secondary institutions as household expenses in the financial assistance calculation formula;
- (c) Allowing for deduction as household expenses in the calculation formula an amount up to the Single Person Rate for Elderly Persons under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme administered by the Social Welfare Department to cater for those applicants whose grandparents are supported by the households in local elderly homes;
- (d) Allowing for the expenses on overseas compulsory field trips to be regarded as part of the academic expenses in calculating the maximum grants of the courses concerned in determining the needs of the students;
- (e) Revision of the scope and the level of the Discretionary Loans to cater for students with special hardship, including disabled students in receipt of Disability Allowance;
- (f) Establishment of an Extended Loan Scheme as an additional component of the Local Student Finance Scheme to help those marginally failed applicants and those successful students with a low level of financial assistance under the current scheme.

The Secretary for the Treasury has been delegated the authority to revise the ceiling of the Extended Loan in accordance with the future revisions in tuition fees.

The Controller of Student Financial Assistance Agency, Mr Alfred Wong, estimated that the total additional grants and loans under the improvement package would be \$26.6 million and \$55 million respectively.

In his policy address on October 5, 1994, the Governor announced that the Government would improve the level of financial assistance to the Hong Kong students by providing, in the coming four years, an additional \$122 million in grants and \$203 million in loans.

"We expect 1,400 more students to become eligible for financial assistance and 4,800 existing beneficiaries to receive higher levels of assistance," Mr Wong said.

The Local Student Finance Scheme is a means-tested scheme, which provides grants and/or loans to eligible local needy students.

The grants are intended to cover tuition fees, academic expenses and student union fees. The maximum grant varies depending on the course of studies pursued.

The loans are intended to help towards students' living and personal expenses. The financial assistance payable in each case is determined by the financial circumstances and the size of the student's family, as measured by its annual disposable income and the course of studies pursued.

Applicants who possess family assets in excess of a set limit will have their assistance reduced.

End/Friday, January 6, 1995

#### District board by-election scheduled

\*\*\*\*\*

A by-election of a district board member for the Yau Ma Tei constituency in Yau Tsim Mong district will be held on Sunday, March 5.

The nomination of candidates will start on Monday (January 9) and last until January 23.

A Gazette notice of the by-election will be issued by the Chief Electoral Officer on Monday (January 9).

A vacancy was declared in the gazette today by the Chairman of Yau Tsim Mong District Board following the recent death of Mr Chiu Kum-hoi.

End/Friday, January 6, 1995

Statement on briefing out of BMFL case

\* \* \* \* \*

The Legal Department wishes to clarify statements made by the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Peter Nguyen, at his meeting with the Legislative Council Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services yesterday (January 5).

When discussing the role of the head of Commercial Crime Unit at the time counsel's fees were paid in respect of the Bumiputra Malaysia Finance Ltd (BMFL) case, the Director of Public Prosecutions did not identify any particular occupant of the post or suggest that the head of that unit had in any way failed to act properly.

Nor did the Director of Public Prosecutions suggest that there were in fact any defects in any of the monitoring procedures.

He was talking in hypothetical terms as all the facts surrounding this matter have not been fully investigated.

The department is continuing to investigate all the facts of the matters and will submit a report to the LegCo panel as soon as possible.

End/Friday, January 6, 1995

Statement on execution of Hong Kong woman

\* \* \* \* \*

In response to the execution of Ms Angel Mou Pui-peng in Singapore today (Friday), the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, said:

"As has happened in previous cases involving Hong Kong residents, the United Kingdom supported a plea for clemency put forward by the European Union on Ms Mou's behalf. The Hong Kong Government fully supported and associated itself with that plea.

"We have abolished the death penalty in Hong Kong. I believe it was wholly right to have done so. I profoundly regret the use of the death penalty anywhere. I extend my deep sympathy and condolences to the family of Ms Mou."

End/Friday, January 6, 1995

**Ceremonial opening of 1995 Legal Year**

\* \* \* \* \*

The ceremonial opening of the 1995 Legal Year will take place on Monday (January 9).

The ceremony organised by the Judiciary will be divided into three parts.

It will begin with a church service at 3.15 pm in the Catholic Cathedral at Caine Road.

At 5 pm, the Chief Justice, Sir Ti Liang Yang, will inspect a Military Guard of Honour at the Edinburgh Place.

Following this, there will be addresses in the Concert Hall of the City Hall which will start at 5.15 pm. The four speakers will be the Chief Justice, Sir Ti Liang Yang; the Attorney General, Mr Jeremy Mathews; the Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association, Mr Ronny F H Wong; and the President of the Law Society of Hong Kong, Mr Roderick B Woo.

Media representatives are invited to cover the ceremony. There will be press positions at all venues:

Press assemble time :	Catholic Cathedral	3 pm
	Edinburgh Place	4.45 pm
	Concert Hall	5 pm

The parade will last about five minutes. Photographers are advised to bring along telephoto lenses. After the parade, the press will be escorted up to the right box of the Concert Hall.

End/Friday, January 6, 1995

Temporary closure of Queen's Pier

\* \* \* \* \*

The Marine Department announced today (Friday) that all the landing steps of Queen's Pier in Central would be temporarily closed for maritime traffic from 4 pm to 5.30 pm on Monday (January 9) to facilitate the Ceremonial Opening of the 1995 Legal Year at Edinburgh Place.

No vessel will be allowed to berth at any of the landing steps of Queen's Pier during the closure period.

Small craft owners and operators are advised to use other public landing facilities within the period. There are public landing steps along the waterfronts at Sheung Wan and Wan Chai.

End/Friday, January 6, 1995

Tenders invited for civil engineering works at airport

\* \* \* \* \*

The Civil Engineering Department is inviting tenders for maintenance and construction of minor civil engineering works at the airport for 1995-1997.

The works include maintenance of runway, aircraft pavements, markings, roads, bridges, car parks, drainage and miscellaneous works, as well as construction of minor civil engineering works within the airport boundary.

The project is expected to start in May and will take 24 months to complete.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Chief Engineer, Development and Airport Division, Civil Engineering Office, Civil Engineering Department, second floor, Civil Engineering Building, 101 Princess Margaret Road, Ho Man Tin, Kowloon.

Tender offer will close at noon on January 27.

End/Friday, January 6, 1995

New pre-chlorination house at Tai Lam Chung

\* \* \* \* \*

The Water Supplies Department is inviting tenders for the construction of a new pre-chlorination house near Tai Lam Chung Reservoir.

The works will also include improvement and extension of the existing access road, construction of a vehicular bridge, conversion of the existing pre-chlorination house to a pumping station as well as laying of water mains and associated works.

It is anticipated that the works will commence in March for completion in 18 months.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Water Supplies Department, 44th floor, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Tender offers will close at noon on January 27.

End/Friday, January 6, 1995

Sewer improvement works for Yuen Long planned

\* \* \* \* \*

The Government plans to improve the existing sewer network in Yuen Long District.

This project will involve the construction of a sewage rising main within an area of about 600 square metres of foreshore and sea-bed in the district.

The works will begin in July for completion in December 1996.

The extent of the area affected is described in the Gazette today (Friday).

The notice and its related plan can be seen at the Lands Department's Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong; and at the Yuen Long District Office, ground floor, Yuen Long District Branch Offices Building, 269 Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long.

Any person who considers that his interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and sea-bed involved will be affected by the above undertaking may submit a written objection to the Director of Lands on or before March 6.

End/Friday, January 6, 1995

Inquiry into sinking of ship ordered

\* \* \* \* \*

The Director of Marine, Mr Allan Pyrke, has ordered a preliminary inquiry into the circumstances attending a Hong Kong-registered bulk carrier, the You Xiu, which stranded on the breakwater at Constanta, Romania and subsequently sank yesterday (Thursday).

In accordance with Section 51(1) of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, Mr Pyrke this (Friday) afternoon appointed a Senior Surveyor of Ships, Mr John McPartland, to conduct the preliminary inquiry.

The ship had a crew of 27. Only the chief engineer is a Hong Kong resident and the rest came from China.

According to reports received by the Marine Department, two ships had sunk in a storm and five bodies have been recovered from beaches south of Constanta of which three were identified as ethnic Chinese.

End/Friday, January 6, 1995

Air mail services to Rwanda resume

\* \* \* \* \*

All air mail services to Rwanda, which have been suspended since May 13 last year, are now resumed, the Postmaster General, Mr Mike Pagliari, announced today (Friday).

Surface mail services to that country remain suspended.

Mr Pagliari noted that because of the substantial damage to numerous Rwandan postal establishments, mail for the interior of the country would, for the time being, take longer than in the past to be delivered.

End/Friday, January 6, 1995

35 biotechnology projects apply for funding support

\* \* \* \* \*

A total of 35 applications from the biotechnology sector have been submitted for funding support under the Additional Funding for Industrial Support Scheme.

More than \$200 million of funds will be set aside in the 1995/96 financial year.

The Assistant Director-General of Industry, Mr Raymond Young, said this today (Friday) at the opening ceremony of the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) Information Centre and Workshop held at the City University of Hong Kong.

"This represents the largest number of applications from any industrial sector," he said.

"The workshop, which is supported by a grant from the Biotechnology Committee of the Industry and Technology Development Council, demonstrates how funded projects benefit industrial development in the territory," he added.

Mr Young said another 10 projects, which included biotechnology-related projects, had received funding support in the form of equity participation or loan provision totalling \$35 million from the Applied Research and Development Fund Scheme in 1994/95.

He urged companies interested in applied research and development to send in their applications for funding support under the scheme which is ongoing throughout the year.

"In the next financial year, a new scheme providing funding support to those companies pooling resources of local and Chinese experts in undertaking applied research and development work, will be launched. Preparatory work for the scheme is under way," he added.

Also speaking at the opening ceremony was the chairman of the Biotechnology Committee, Mr Y L Lo.

"The workshop is to assist Hong Kong pharmaceutical and allied industries to further develop and get a larger share of the international and local markets by investing in GMP management and facilities," he said.

Beginning today, the one and a half day workshop briefly introduces the concept, philosophy and implementation of GMP for pharmaceutical and allied industries.

"Since GMP requirements may vary from country to country and from product to product, professionals from China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and USA have been invited to speak on these topics and describe the GMP regulations and implementation experiences in their countries," he added.

End/Friday, January 6, 1995

#### 54 Ex-China Vietnamese illegal immigrants repatriated

\* \* \* \* \*

A total of 54 Ex-China Vietnamese illegal immigrants (ECVIIs) comprising 26 men, 13 women, nine boys and six girls were returned to Nanning, Guangxi by air this morning (Friday).

Discussions are continuing with the Chinese authorities on the repatriation of the 390 ECVIIIs still remaining in Hong Kong.

End/Friday, January 6, 1995

### Green light for flood protection works

\* \* \* \* \*

The Governor-in-Council has given authorisation for the Drainage Services Department to proceed with a village flood protection project in San Tin, Yuen Long.

The works of the project involve the construction of an earth bund, a pumping station and a flood storage pond within an area of about 1.62 hectares of foreshore and sea-bed.

The project will alleviate flooding at Tung Chan Wai, Wing Ping Tsuen, On Lung Tsuen, Fan tin Tsuen, San Lung Tsuen, Yan Shau Wai and Tsing Lung Tsuen.

The works will begin in October for completion in March 1998.

The extent of the area affected is described in a Gazette notice published today (Friday).

The notice and its related plan can be seen at the Lands Department's Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong; and at the Yuen Long District Office, ground floor, Yuen Long District Branch Offices Building, 269 castle Peak road, Yuen Long.

Any person who considers that his interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and sea-bed involved will be affected by the above undertaking may send a written claim for compensation to the Director of Lands before January 6, 1996.

He should state in his submission the sum of money he is willing to accept in full and final settlement of his claim and submit particulars to substantiate his claim.

End/Friday, January 6, 1995

### Trends in empowerment of disabled persons

\* \* \* \* \*

The aim of rehabilitation, which is explicitly spelt out in the theme of the Green Paper on Rehabilitation published in 1992, is to enable disabled persons to have as many and equal opportunity in society as ordinary people.

This was stated by Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan, when he delivered a speech entitled "Policies and Future Trends in the Empowerment of Disabled Persons" at the plenary session of Wai Ji Training Centre's 15th Anniversary at City University of Hong Kong today (Friday).

"Rehabilitation policies all point to this direction. In a sense, all such policies are geared towards empowering disabled persons to achieve this aim," Mr Strachan said.

Noting that disabled persons in Hong Kong enjoyed the same opportunity for compulsory education as their ordinary counterparts, Mr Strachan said those who could not enter the mainstream were provided special education with various levels of enhanced support.

"Education is the most effective means to empower individuals, particularly the underprivileged, for upward mobility in society.

"Education brings opportunity. Educated disabled persons not only have a better mastery of their environment, they also become more informed about their rights and obligations. These are the essential motivators for empowerment," he said.

Pointing out that not every disabled persons could fully realise their potential even with the benefits of universal education, Mr Strachan said a spectrum of social rehabilitation programmes were therefore developed for people with various degree of disability and hence different needs.

These programmes include vocational training, supported employment, sheltered work, day activity centres and residential services.

He said disabled persons were empowered through these programmes to make use of available opportunities for achievements to stretch the limits of their capabilities.

On empowerment through participation, the Director of Social Welfare said the policy was for rehabilitation to take place in the community in interaction with the public at large.

"On one hand, the more chances disabled persons have to participate in community life, the more they become integrated in it.

"On the other, the more disabled persons are integrated in society, the more they can contribute towards it and take part in social and political processes," he said.

Pointing out that disabled persons were represented in many of the consultation and policy-making venues such as the Rehabilitation Development Co-ordinating Committee and its sub-committees, Mr Strachan said he looked forward to seeing them going further and contributing to the making of social policies in general.

Turning to empowerment through self-help, Mr Strachan said he had noted that an increasing number of self-help groups had become more active over the last couple of years.

"Through self-help, disabled persons or their parents become more resourceful, more sustained in the rehabilitation process and more enriched in social life.

"Besides, they are empowered by their collectivity in soliciting more social concern and public resources for their welfare.

"Recognising these benefits, I am sure the Government will continue to encourage the self-help spirit," Mr Strachan said.

On community support for disabled persons, he said new services such as parents resource centres and community rehabilitation networks were set up to provide information to disabled persons and their families, to help them acquire the needed community resources and to make use of services.

"Other support such as respite care, occasional child care, home-help service, family resource and activity centre, to name just a few, have been available to the carers of disabled persons to empower them in performing and sustaining their caring role in the family.

"This trend will continue. Other innovative approaches in providing community support to families with disabled members will continue to be seen in our community," he said.

Turning to empowerment through legislation, Mr Strachan said the government was actively drafting an anti-discrimination law to protect disabled persons.

"When this is enacted, disabled persons will not be unreasonably denied access to education, employment, services and various areas in social life. This certainly has a great empowering effect," he added.

End/Friday, January 6, 1995

## Ma On Shan Outline Zoning Plan amended for housing developments

\* \* \* \* \*

The Town Planning Board today (Friday) announced amendments to the draft Ma On Shan Outline Zoning Plan.

"The amendments are to incorporate land use proposals in the Ma On Shan South area, which covers Planning Areas 77 and 82 as well as parts of 86 and 90 with about 59 hectares of land," a spokesman for the board said.

Land use proposals have now been incorporated for the 'Undetermined' zone to the west of Ma On Shan Road in Planning Areas 77 and 90.

These include a 'Residential (Group A)' zone, with an area of 4.11 hectares, for a public rental housing cum Home Ownership Scheme development of 3,100 flats; a 'Residential (Group B)2' (R(B)2) zone for Sandwich Class Housing and private residential development; a 'Commercial' (C) zone for commercial or office development; 'Open Space' (O) zones comprising a 1.6-kilometre waterfront promenade, and 'Government/Institution/Community' (GIC) zones for the development of schools, health and welfare facilities.

"There are one Sandwich Class Housing site of 1.49 hectares and six private housing sites of 9.33 hectares within the 'R(B)2' zone in Planning Areas 77 and 90. They are expected to produce 1,150 and 6,000 flats respectively," the spokesman said.

Other amendments include rezoning the 'Industrial' (I) and 'O' zones and 'Road' in Planning Area 86 to 'R(B)2', 'C', 'GIC', 'Other Specified Uses' annotated 'Petrol Filling Station' and 'Road'; and rezoning 'R(B)2' in Planning Area 90 to 'GIC'.

A small Country Park area apposite Nai Chung Village has also been rezoned from 'Green Belt' (GB) to 'Country Park' (CP) to reflect the existing use of the site.

"The 'R(B)2' zone in Planning Area 86, which has an area of 1.74 hectares, has been reserved for Sandwich Class Housing for producing 1,350 flats.

"Upon full development, the Ma On Shan South area will accommodate 29,600 people," the spokesman noted.

The amendment plan (No. S/MOS/3) is available for public inspection until January 27 from :

- \* Planning Department,  
16th floor,  
Murray Building,  
Garden Road,  
Hong Kong;
  
- \* Sha Tin and North East District Planning Office,  
Sha Tin Government Offices,  
ground floor,  
Tung Lo Wan Hill Road,  
Sha Tin;
  
- \* Sha Tin District Office,  
6th floor, KCRC House,  
Sha Tin Station,  
Sha Tin; and
  
- \* Tai Po District Office,  
Tai Po Government Offices,  
Ting Kok Road,  
Tai Po.

Any person affected by the amendment plan may submit written objection to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Planning Department, 13th floor, Murray Building before January 27.

Copies of the draft plan can be bought at the Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, and the Kowloon Map Sales Office, ground floor, 382 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

End/Friday, January 6, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

\*\*\*\*\*

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,485	0930	+368
Closing balance in the account	1,323	1000	+368
Change attributable to :		1100	+354
Money market activity	+356	1200	+356
LAF today	-518	1500	+356
		1600	+356

LAF rate 3.75% bid/5.75% offer TWI 121.5 \*-0.1\* 6.1.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.06	17 months	2605	6.35	98.67	7.54
1 month	5.20	23 months	2611	6.90	98.66	7.83
3 months	5.66	28 months	3704	6.15	96.35	8.06
6 months	6.35	34 months	3710	7.25	98.09	8.18
12 months	7.09	60 months	5912	8.15	99.15	8.54

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$13,640 million

Closed January 6, 1995

End/Friday, January 6, 1995