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## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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**Saturday, December 14, 1996**

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7th Fight Crime Conference

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Useful discussions and reports presented at the 1996 Fight Crime Conference this (Saturday) morning have provided insight into ways to fight crime and reinforced the community's determination to do so.

This was stated by the Chairman of the Conference, Ms Rosanna Wong, at the biennial session held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The seventh Conference was aimed to encourage community participation in the fight against crime and strengthen communication between the Fight Crime Committee (FCC) and the 18 District Fight Crime Committees (DFCCs).

The Conference, with "Fight Crime -- Everybody's Responsibility" as its theme, served as a forum for exchange of views on ways to combat crime.

Ms Wong said that participants had focussed their discussions on the findings of the five group discussions which had taken place prior to the Conference on the responsibility of various sectors to fight against juvenile delinquency, triads as well as organised and serious crimes.

These sectors range from the community, legislators, law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, educators, rehabilitation workers to the media.

Ms Wong said that the views and recommendations put forward would be further considered by the FCC and the Government, and that follow-up action would be taken as appropriate.

The Governor, the Rt Hon Chris Patten, officiated at today's Conference which was attended by some 400 FCC members as well as Chairmen and members of DFCCs.

Government officials taking part in the session included the Chief Secretary, Attorney General, Secretary for Security, Secretary for Home Affairs, Secretary for Health and Welfare, Secretary for Education and Manpower, Commissioner of Police and Commissioner of Correctional Services.

End

Family of traffic accident victim granted \$80,700

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The Social Welfare Department has granted \$80,700 from the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance (TAVA) Fund to the family members of a woman killed during a traffic accident last month.

The woman, aged 20, was the passenger on board a motor-cycle which lost control and fell beneath the flyover at Princess Margaret Road on November 19. The deceased was survived by her parents, two brothers and a sister.

The driver of the motor-cycle, who was also injured during the accident, was awarded an injury grant totalling \$7,800.

A spokesman for the department said today (Saturday) that the TAVA scheme aimed at providing prompt financial assistance to traffic accident victims or their dependants, regardless of the means of a family or the fault element in the accident.

"Beneficiaries under the scheme will retain the right to make claims for legal damages or compensation from other sources in the usual way.

"However, those who receive other damages or compensation relating to the same accident are required to repay the amount of assistance already received from the TAVA scheme.

"But in any case, the amount repaid will not exceed the amount of damages or compensation awarded," the spokesman said.

Enquiries about the scheme may contact the SWD's TAVA Section at Room 942, ninth floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, or on telephone 2834 7472.

End

Open day for CSD Staff Training Institute

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The Staff Training Institute of the Correctional Services Department will hold an Open Day on December 21 (Saturday) to enable the public to know more about the training and administrative aspects of the Department which is at the receiving end of the criminal justice system of our society.

The Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Lam Woon-kwong, will officiate at the opening ceremony at 10 am. The Institute, located at Stanley, will remain open to the public until 4 pm.

In addition to exhibitions in classrooms, visitors will see demonstrations staged by the CSD Dog Unit and the Anti-riot Squad. Entertainment will be provided by the Cape Collinson and Tai Tam Gap Marching Bands.

Other facilities of the Institute will also be open to visitors. Of particular interest are the historical items kept in the museum, including a miniature execution chamber and corporal punishment apparatus that have disappeared from Hong Kong prisons with the abolition of these punishments.

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Tai Po Fire Station open day

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Tai Po Fire Station will be open to members of the public from 10 am to 5 pm tomorrow (Sunday).

The open day is part of the 1996/97 Fire Prevention Campaign.

Members of the public visiting the fire station will have a chance to learn more about fire prevention.

They can see various types of modern fire appliances such as Hydraulic Platform, Reserve Major Pump and Light Rescue Unit.

They can also see various kinds of fire-fighting and rescue equipment, including survivor detection system, slice cutting set, power lifting bags, fireman's chemical protection suit, thermal imaging camera and defibrillator.

Two rescue demonstrations by firemen will take place at 10.30 am and 3 pm respectively.

There will be a set of display boards on fire safety advice. A video tape on fire prevention in industrial premises will also be shown.

Officers from the Department's Fire Protection Bureau will be on hand to give fire safety advice and to distribute information leaflets to visitors.

Tai Po Fire Station is located at 3 Ting Kok Road, Tai Po, New Territories.

Wong Tai Sin Fire Station and Sai Wan Ho Fire Station will be open to members of the public in January and February respectively.

End

#### EPS service extended to Kowloon Licensing Office

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The Transport Department is to extend the Easy Pay System (EPS) scheme to its Kowloon Licensing Office from Monday (December 16).

A spokesman for the department said: "The scheme, on a pilot basis, has been well received by members of the public since it was introduced to the Hong Kong Licensing Office in September.

"The second phase of the scheme is to extend the service to the Kowloon Licensing Office (ninth floor, Park-In Commercial Centre, 56 Dundas Street, Kowloon) from next Monday.

"It is our policy to look for ways to improve our facilities to better serve the clients. The EPS scheme offers an alternative method for the payment of fees and charges in our licensing offices," the spokesman said.

Members of the public applying for a full driving licence in the Kowloon Licensing Office can now pay the fee by EPS. They could submit their applications and pay the fees at the same counter to save time and reduce the volume of cash in hand.

The spokesman said the service would be further extended to the other two licensing offices in Kwun Tong and Sha Tin in the future, when resources are available.

End

#### Eastern District Festival caters for all age groups

\* \* \* \* \*

The Eastern District Festival will offer a rich programme of 48 cultural, recreational, community and sporting events for people of all ages, the Director of Home Affairs, Mrs Shelley Lau, said today (Saturday).

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Eastern District Festival 1996/97, Mrs Lau said this festival is the largest community building programme in the district over the past few years.

The opening ceremony was followed immediately by a variety show featuring singing of the festival's theme song by the Eastern District Children's Choir and performances by famous singers, namely Mr Aaron Kwok, Miss Cass Pang, Mr Emil Chow and Miss Nancy Sit.

Mrs Lau called on residents to take part actively in the festival events starting today until January 26. These include the Industry and Trade Expo, a colourful parade, a food fair, carnivals, singing competitions, photo contests, Cantonese operas, Chinese calligraphy competitions, and a day camp for mentally handicapped children.

Mrs Lau said the theme of the festival, "Work together and enjoy prosperity", reflects the determination and hope of residents from all walks of life in the district to work hand in hand for the prosperity of the Eastern District.

She was pleased that community groups are brought closer together in the course of organising the activities, thereby enhancing their community spirit.

The month-long festival is organised by the Eastern District Festival Co-ordinating Committee with the assistance of the Eastern District Office and the Eastern District Board.

The Eastern District Officer, Mr Lui Hau-tuen; the Chairman of the Eastern District Board, Mr Chan Bing-woon; and the Chairman of the Eastern District Festival Co-ordinating Committee, Mr Wong Kwok-hing were also present at the opening ceremony

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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		TIME	AGGREGATE BALANCE OF SETTLEMENT ACCOUNTS
OPENING AGGREGATE BALANCE	730 MN	0930 HR	8,214 MN
CLOSING AGGREGATE BALANCE	816 MN	1000 HR	8,173 MN
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100 HR	8,346 MN
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	NIL	1200 HR	9,967 MN
LAF REVERSAL	+7,150 MN	1500 HR	
LAF TODAY	- 7,064 MN	1600 HR	

LAF RATE 4.00% BID/6.00% OFFER TWI 125.0 \*+0.1\* 14.12.96

Closed DECEMBER 14, 1996

End

Care concept in welfare services

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The Director of Social Welfare, Mr Andrew Leung Kin-pong, reiterated that the "care" concept had all along been the cornerstone of Government's provision of welfare services in Hong Kong.

He said the "White Paper on Social Welfare into the 1990s and Beyond" had long recognised the importance of community support in the form of a network of informal care provided by families, friends and neighbours.

"The 1994 Report of the Working Group on Care for the Elderly and the 1995 White Paper on Rehabilitation also echo this spirit," he said.

Speaking at the Hong Kong Charity Day TV variety show this (Sunday) evening, Mr Leung pointed out that the government had been providing a variety of community support services for the elderly.

He said these included home help service, day care centres, social centres, multi-service centres, community geriatric services, psychogeriatric services, holiday centres, and elderly health centres.

"More recently, we have launched a social networking project for the elderly to link formal and informal support together.

"This social networking sets out to mobilise community efforts, government and non-governmental organisations, corporations, district boards, mutual aid committees, church groups and schools alike, in a co-ordinated effort to deliver the care and support our elderly people deserve," he added.

End

### Southern District Festival caters for special groups

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The Southern District Festival will offer special programmes to cater for the elderly and handicapped in addition to a wide range of other activities which will appeal to the community at large, the Director of Home Affairs, Mrs Shelley Lau, said today (Sunday).

Speaking at a ceremony to launch the festival, Mrs Lau said one of its objectives was to encourage wider participation in district events among senior citizens and handicapped people in order to raise their sense of belonging to the district.

"By the same token, this would allow the community at large to get to know these special groups better and show their respect and concern," Mrs Lau said.

The opening ceremony was followed immediately by a variety show highlighting the special characteristics of the district. Some of the best known local artistes, including Mr Aaron Kwok, Miss Vivian Chow, Miss Sammi Cheng and a number of RTHK disc jockeys, also performed on the occasion.

A total of 23 activities are to be organised between today and January 5 to mark the festival. They include carnivals, ball games, Cantonese operas, karaoke singing contests for the handicapped and an athletics meet for senior citizens.

"With the support of the Southern District Board, the festival is the positive fruition of district administration and an example of what can be achieved by promoting community involvement and communication within the district," Mrs Lau said.

The three-week festival is organised by the Southern District Festival Organising Committee with the assistance of the Southern District Office.

The Southern District Officer, Mrs Erika Hui; the Chairman of the Southern District Board, Mr Ko Tam-kan; and the Chairman of the Southern District Festival Organising Committee, Mrs So Chau Yim-ping were also present.

End

### ACP projects highlighted on Internet

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An Airport Core Programme (ACP) homepage has been created on the Internet to highlight the massive infrastructure development which will play a vital role in Hong Kong's future.

The homepage, produced by the New Airport Projects Co-ordination Office (NAPCO), outlines the 10 major projects in the ACP, ranging from an international airport and a new town to six-lane highways and bridges that are among the world's largest.

The 38-page presentation is illustrated with over 40 photographs and graphics. These highlight the scope of the projects, and how the 2.2 kilometre Tsing Ma Bridge, main part of the Lantau Link, has become a new landmark.

The homepage includes a list of contracts awarded, which reflects the international nature of the ACP, with companies from many countries involved. The contracts exceed \$95 billion in value.

In setting up the homepage, NAPCO has joined the growing number of government branches, departments and agencies that are publicising their work and services on the Internet.

"Our homepage will help bring people worldwide up to date on how the ACP is progressing," said Mr Billy Lam, Director of NAPCO.

"Eight of the projects -- such as the Western Harbour Crossing, the West Kowloon Expressway and the Lantau Link -- are over 90 per cent complete and will come on stream in the next six months, so this is a timely development.

"Internet users can make themselves more familiar with these projects and what they will mean for Hong Kong."

Works overall, including the new airport at Chek Lap Kok and the Airport Railway, are about 70 per cent complete, Mr Lam noted.

The homepage describes how the \$156.4 billion ACP, besides providing a new airport which will begin operations in 1998, is bringing about major changes in Hong Kong's infrastructure and how these will have important benefits for the community.

A large area of new land has been provided at the Kowloon peninsula, which will be used for a variety of purposes besides accommodating part of the airport transport network.

New land at the Central waterfront, where the Hong Kong Station of the Airport Railway is being built, already has new ferry piers in operation on it.

At Tung Chung, adjacent to the new airport site, an entire new town is being developed, and the public and private housing being built in the first phase will be home to an estimated 20,000 people.

The 34-kilometre transport network serving the new airport will have its own benefits for the travelling public.

The road network beginning on Hong Kong Island will play a part in improving traffic flow at district level and the Western Harbour Crossing, between Sai Ying Pun and reclaimed land at west Kowloon, will ease traffic congestion in the existing cross-harbour tunnels.

The domestic service of the Airport Railway, which also opens in 1998, will have an interchange with the existing Mass Transit Railway (MTR) at Lai King, and this will help ease peak-hour passenger congestion on the MTR's Tsuen Wan Line.

Initially in English, the homepage will be developed into a bilingual presentation. The address is <http://www.info.gov.hk/napco/>

By a hyperlink, users can also learn more about the new airport at Chek Lap Kok through the homepage of the Airport Authority.

End

#### Calendar cards to promote child care

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The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has produced 150,000 copies of calendar card for the year 1997 in an effort to spread the message of home safety.

The calendar cards, which convey a message appealing members of the public to make use of occasional child care service, are now available for collection from all district offices, SWD district offices and sub-offices and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service.

"Children should under no circumstances be left unattended at home, even for a short while," a department spokesman said today (Sunday).

At present, there are 194 child care centres providing a total of 597 occasional child care places to needy families.

Child care centres offer temporary care for children aged under six on two-hour, half-day or whole day basis. The fee for a two-hour session is \$15.

Members of the public interested in the service may call the department's hotline 2343 2255 or the Child Care Centre Advisory Inspectorate on 2835 2725.

"Parents having any child care problems can seek help from the department's 42 family services centres throughout the territory," the spokesman said.

End

#### ACP Exhibition Centre closes during X'mas holidays

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The Airport Core Programme (ACP) Exhibition Centre will close during the Christmas holidays, New Year's day and the Lunar New Year holidays.

The closure dates will be December 25 and 26, January 1, 1997 and February 6, 7 and 8, 1997.

After these holidays, the centre will open as usual from 10 am to 5 pm from Tuesday to Friday, and 10 am to 6.30 pm on Saturday, Sunday and public holidays. But it will close on Monday, except when it is a public holiday.

The exhibition centre, set up by the New Airport Projects Co-ordination Office (NAPCO), has attracted more than 430,000 visitors since its opening in January this year.

The centre draws an average of 8,000 visitors on Sundays and public holidays. Therefore, members of the public are advised to visit the centre on weekdays and Saturdays to avoid queuing up for entry and to have more time to view the exhibits and make use of its facilities.

The centre is designed to give members of the public a chance to learn more about the 10 ACP projects which are the largest infrastructure development ever undertaken in Hong Kong.

NAPCO organises guided tours of the centre for primary and secondary schools and local organisations. At the end of November, about 40,000 people from 516 schools and 557 community organisations had visited the centre.

Enquiries on free guided tours can be made to NAPCO's Community Relations Division on 2829 6282 or fax 2827 8446.

Located on Castle Peak Road, Ting Kau, the centre is an ideal location to view the Lantau Link, which has become a new landmark in Hong Kong.

On display at the centre are the latest information on the works progress of the 10 projects, illustrated by photographs, models and video presentations. Telescopes have been set up at the viewing platforms at the centre's garden and rooftop for visitors to view the Tsing Ma and Kap Shui Mun Bridges, which form the Lantau Link.

End

#### Flushing water cut on Hong Kong Island

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The flushing water supply to some premises in Kennedy Town, Western District, will be temporarily suspended from 10 pm on Wednesday (December 18) to 6 am the following day for alteration works on watermains.

The suspension will affect all premises along Kennedy Town New Praya, Catchick Street, Hau Wo Street, Belcher's Street, Forbes Street, a section of Victoria Road between Sai Ning Street and Cadogan Street, Ka Wai Man Road, Sai Ning Street, Lung Wah Street, Smithfield, Sands Street, North Street, Davis Street, Cadogan Street, Kwan Yick Street, Sai See Street, Sai Wan Estate, Kwun Lung Lau and Kennedy Town Police Quarters.

End