



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
New chapter in US-HK aviation relationship	1
Kindergarten subsidy payment next week	2
Four more language projects receive funding	3
Books Registration Office moved to new premises	6
Suggestions for improvements to country parks invited	6
Nomination of arts community representatives required	7
Tenders invited for works in schools	8
Second Draft Drainage Authority Area plan gazetted	9
Tenders invited for district open space in Tsuen Wan	10
Village expansion area for San Tsuen in Tsuen Wan	11
Heavy penalties for trading in tiger/rhino medicines	12
Stanley Prison inmates received certificates	13
Surface mail services to Rwanda resumed	13
Water cut in Eastern District	14
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	14

New chapter in US-HK aviation relationship

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The aviation relationship between Hong Kong and the United States entered an important and exciting new phase today (Friday) with the confirmation of the initialled draft Air Services Agreement text between the Government of Hong Kong and the Government of the United States of America.

Officiating at a ceremony to mark the occasion were the Secretary for Economic Services, Mr Gordon Siu, and the US Secretary of Transportation, Mr Federico Pena.

Mr Siu noted that there had been significant developments in air traffic between Hong Kong and the United States since 1937.

"And the US has become Hong Kong's largest overseas trading partner. It is also the second largest source of foreign investment in Hong Kong.

"The security of air links after 1997 is vital to the maintenance of this position, and in that respect to the maintenance of our own prosperity.

"The draft agreement therefore carries implications which reach far beyond the air services sector," he said.

Mr Siu added that within the next few months Hong Kong intended to initial agreements with Japan and the Philippines.

"By 1997, we shall have in place a network of at least 20 agreements covering all our significant aviation partners and providing a stable legal and regulatory platform for the development of our airlines, as Asia's finest, into the next century," he said.

He noted that the draft US-HK Air Services Agreement text, when cleared by the Joint Liaison Group, would ensure the continuation of air links between the US and Hong Kong through and beyond the transfer of sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997.

"It represents an important vote of confidence in Hong Kong's future, and in particular in the civil aviation autonomy granted to us under the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration.

"The broadening and deepening of our air services relationship over the coming years will, I am sure, demonstrate eloquently that that confidence is well-founded," Mr Siu said.

The new understanding on US-HK traffic arrangements, which takes immediate effect, allows US airlines for the first time to carry freight from Hong Kong to Asian destinations.

Meanwhile, it permits Hong Kong airlines to fly to 14 cities in the US, with no geographical restrictions.

It also opens the way for operation of a "round-the-world" route, linking Hong Kong with India and Europe and the US.

So far, Hong Kong has signed air services agreements with the Netherlands, Switzerland, Canada, Brunei, France, New Zealand, Malaysia, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Australia and the Federal Republic of Germany.

End/Friday, November 10, 1995

Kindergarten subsidy payment next week

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More than \$18.7 million will be paid next week to 232 kindergartens under the Education Department's Kindergarten Subsidy Scheme (KSS) in the first payment of the 1995-96 school year, about half a month ahead of the original payment schedule.

A spokesman for the department said today (Friday) the early payment had been enabled by speedy processing of the applications and through kindergarten operators' co-operation. The subsidy will cover a total of over 52,500 pupils.

The \$18.7 million to be paid on November 17 represents half of the year's subsidy and payment for the balance amount will be made in May 1996.

"The KSS is aimed at improving the quality of kindergarten education," the spokesman said.

"In order to minimise the impact of fee increases on parents as a result of the Government's new regulatory requirements on kindergarten from September 1995, all kindergartens are eligible to apply for a subsidy based on a rate of \$695 per pupil per year, provided that the annual school fee per pupil in the 1994-95 school year does not exceed \$8,300 and the fulfilment of other conditions for joining KSS.

"The regulatory requirements on all kindergartens include the revised academic qualification for kindergarten teachers and at least 40 per cent trained teachers in each session of a kindergarten," the spokesman added.

End/Friday, November 10, 1995

Four more language projects receive funding

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Funds totalling \$3.81 million have been approved for four language improvement projects in the second round of the second allocation exercise of the Language Fund.

The Fund was set up in May last year. It was a trust fund held under the Director of Education Incorporation Ordinance with an initial allocation of \$300 million.

The main objective of the Fund is to support proposals and initiatives which will raise the standards in Chinese (including Putonghua) and English, enhance existing efforts and meet temporary shortfalls in language teaching resources. In addition, it also designs to encourage research into problem areas and initiation of new approaches.

Of the four successful applications which aim at improving language proficiency of teachers, students and members of the public, two are English language projects and two Chinese language/Putonghua projects.

A spokesman of the Language Fund Secretariat said: "There is a good combination of research, teaching and learning resource materials as well as reading award project."

"They all meet the stringent criteria set by the Language Fund Advisory Committee and should be a great help in raising language standards in Hong Kong."

The spokesman noted that among the successful bidders were two projects producing learning materials to enhance the learning of English in late 1995.

There is also a research study on the development of early language production in Hong Kong Chinese pre-school children.

Another Chinese project is a popular reading award scheme for secondary school students in 1995-96 school year.

Chinese Language (Including Putonghua) Projects

Project	Organisation/ Co-ordinator	Amount of Grant and Duration of Project
Conducting a research study on the development of early language production in Hong Kong Chinese pre-school children starting in early 1996	Dr. Sylvia Opper and Dr. Tse Shek Kam	\$0.56 million over 1 year
Organisation of Popular Reading Award Scheme by Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union for secondary school students in 1995-96	Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union	\$0.26 million over 1 year

English Projects

Project	Organisation/ Co-ordinator	Amount of Grant and Duration of Project
Production of video packages for use in Business Communication classes at tertiary/vocational training institutions in Hong Kong in late 1995	Mr. Clifford Hall	\$0.39 million over 14 months
Production of a self-access learning package of English language materials for Secondary 6 students of English medium schools in late 1995	The British Council	\$2.6 million over 2 years

Language Fund Secretariat
Education Department

End/Friday, November 10, 1995

Books Registration Office moved to new premises

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The Books Registration Office, which was formerly under the administration of the Recreation and Culture Branch, has been transferred to the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority this week. The Office is now located in room 916, ninth floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Under the Books Registration Ordinance, publishers and printers are required to deliver five copies of their new books to the Books Registration Office for registration within one month of publication. Any person who contravenes the ordinance shall be guilty of an offence and is liable, upon conviction, to a fine of \$2,000.

The Books Registration Office also serves as the local agent for the International Standard Book Numbering system. Publishers are welcome to make use of this free service to promote their business. Further enquiries can be made on 2594 5636.

End/Friday, November 10, 1995

Suggestions for improvements to country parks invited

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Countryside visitors with good suggestions in mind to improve services at the territory's country parks are invited to enrol as participants in next month's Country Park Visitor Liaison Group meeting.

Members of the public with first-hand experience of country parks are also welcome to take part in the discussions on December 16 (Saturday) with Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) staff on matters relating to these public scenic parks.

Commenting on next month's meeting, an AFD spokesman said it would be the fifth round discussions of the Liaison Group since its establishment in late 1993.

The spokesman said: "The previous meetings had proved useful as there were direct and frank exchanges of views between participants and AFD on services provided at country parks and on suggestions concerning the provision of these services."

"We hope that more suggestions would be forthcoming in the December 16 meeting scheduled to be held between 2.30 pm and 4.30 pm at the Ranger Head Office, Shing Mun Country Park," he added.

Those interested in taking part in the meeting can collect enrolment forms at AFD's Country Parks Management Office at Room 1462, Canton Road Government Offices, 393 Canton Road, Kowloon. Forms are also available from visitor centres at the six country parks in Aberdeen, Shing Mun, Clear Water Bay, Tai Mo Shan, Plover Cove and Sai Kung as well as the Lions Nature Education Centre.

Completed forms should be returned by post to the Country Parks Management Office or in person to any of the above seven country park visitor centres and nature education centre on or before December 2.

As the number of public members for the Liaison Group is limited to 30, selection by drawing lots may be required if there are too many applicants. Successful applicants will be notified by post before December 11.

End/Friday, November 10, 1995

Nomination of arts community representatives required

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The notice of the Hong Kong Arts development Council (HKADC) Specification of Representative Organisations was published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

Under the Hong Kong Arts Development Council Ordinance, the 18 non-official Council members, including a chairman and a vice-chairman, may consist up to nine persons representing each of the nine arts interests nominated by the organisations or groups of organisations specified by the Governor.

The specified group for each arts interest may each nominate one person experienced in that arts interest to be considered by the Governor for appointment as a member of HKADC with effect from January 1, 1996.

A spokesman for the Recreation and Culture Branch called on members of the arts community to actively participate in the nomination process.

"The memberships of these specified organisations or groups of organisations are open to all individuals and organisations who are active in their respective arts interests in Hong Kong.

"Any suitable persons or organisations wishing to join in should contact directly the respective specified organisations or groups of organisations.

"Parties wishing to participate in the nomination process for the coming term of office of the HKADC, either as candidates or voters, must register with the relevant specified bodies by November 21," the spokesman said.

The specified organisations are required to submit their nominations and all supporting documentation to the Recreation and Culture Branch on or before December 11 for consideration by the Governor for appointment as HKADC members.

End/Friday, November 10, 1995

Tenders invited for works in schools

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders to carry out alteration works for five aided schools.

As part of the School Improvement Programme, the works comprise new extension work and conversion work including associated building services and drainage systems.

Forms of tender and further particulars may be obtained from the Architectural Services Department, 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Tenders must be clearly marked and addressed to the Chairman of the Central Tender Board and placed in the Government Secretariat tender box in the lift lobby, lower ground floor, Central Government Offices (East Wing), Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong before noon on December 8.

Late tenders will not be accepted.

Only contractors on the Approved Contractors for Public Works List I in Groups B and C for Building Works will be permitted to tender.

End/Friday, November 10, 1995

Second Draft Drainage Authority Area plan gazetted

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The Drainage Authority (who is the Director of Drainage Services) has prepared a draft Drainage Authority Area plan for the second largest drainage basin in Hong Kong.

This represented another step forward in the flood prevention works in the New Territories, a spokesman for the Drainage Services Department (DSD) said today (Friday).

The draft plan, gazetted today, shows the boundary of the "Drainage Authority Area" in the Indus Drainage Basin which is bound in the east by Pat Sin Leng Country Park, in the south by Tai Po, in the west by Yuen Long and in the north by Ping Che and Man Kam To.

"Upon gazetting of the draft plan, the Drainage Authority is given various powers under the Land Drainage Ordinance to enter upon private land for executing drainage works, and to exercise control on erection of structures within the main watercourses.

"These measures are aimed at reducing the threat of flooding in areas covered by the draft Drainage Authority Area plan," the spokesman said.

The plan has an area of about 70 square kilometres and mainly covers Kwu Tung, Lo Wu, Lung Yuek Tau, Kwan Tei, Wo Hop Shek, Hong Lok Yuen, Sheung Shui and Fanling New Town. About 35 kilometres of watercourses within these areas are also designated by the Drainage Authority as "main watercourses" on the draft plan.

The draft Drainage Authority Area plan showing the boundary of the "Drainage Authority Area" and the extent of main watercourses, can be seen at the following offices:

- * Drainage Services Department headquarters, 43rd floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai;
- * Land Drainage Division, Drainage Services Department, 11th floor, Kowloon Government Offices, 405 Nathan Road, Yau Ma Tei;

- * North District Office, third floor, North District Government Offices, 3 Pik Fung Road, Fanling;
- * Tai Po District Office, Tai Po Government Offices Building, Ting Kok Road, Tai Po;
- * Land Registry, 28th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway;
- * North New Territories Land Registry, second floor, North District Government Offices, 3 Pik Fung Road, Fanling; and
- * Tai Po New Territories Land Registry, second floor, Mei Hing Building, 1-17 Yan Hing Street, Tai Po.

Any person affected by the draft Drainage Authority Area plan may lodge objections in writing to the Drainage Authority not later than 60 days after the gazette notice.

He should clearly set out the nature of and reasons for the objection, and any proposed alteration that would remove the objection.

End/Friday, November 10, 1995

Tenders invited for district open space in Tsuen Wan

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for the construction of a district open space in Area 7 in Tsuen Wan.

The district open area, with an area of 29,500 square metres, will comprise tennis courts, a service building, a store room, covered walkways, play areas and landscaping works.

Tender forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Architectural Services Department, 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Tenders must be clearly marked and addressed to the Chairman of the Central Tender Board and placed in the Government Secretariat Tender Box in the lift lobby, lower ground floor, Central Government Offices (East Wing), Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong before noon on Friday, December 1.

Late tenders will not be accepted.

Only contractors on the Approved Contractors for Public Works List I in Groups B & C for Building Works will be permitted to tender.

End/Friday, November 10, 1995

Village expansion area for San Tsuen in Tsuen Wan

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The Government intends to construct an expansion area for San Tsuen in Tsuen Wan to facilitate the expansion and improvement of the village.

"On completion of the site formation and roads and drainage works, about 9,260 square metres of land will be made available for local open spaces, an electricity sub-station and 46 small house sites," a government spokesman said today (Friday).

"The small house sites will help relieve the congested housing situation for San Tsuen villagers," he added.

To enable the works to be carried out, a notice was published in the Government Gazette today announcing government's plan to resume 57 private agricultural lots with a total area of about 6,360.5 square metres.

Details of the lots affected are contained in the Gazette notice.

Plans can also be seen at the Tsuen Wan District Lands Office, 10th floor, Tsuen Wan Station Multi-Storey Carpark Building, 174-208 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan.

The spokesman explained that to ensure compatibility with the development of the Tsuen Wan new town, a comprehensive village expansion area was designed with a layout plan subsequently approved for San Tsuen.

Works will commence in March next year for completion in about 18 months.

End/Friday, November 10, 1995

Heavy penalties for trading in tiger/rhino medicines

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Trading in medicines containing or claiming to contain ingredients of highly endangered species, including tiger and rhino, without a licence could face very heavy penalties if convicted by the court.

The reminder was issued by an Agriculture and Fisheries Department's (AFD) conservation officer, Mr Cheung Chi-sun, after a trader was fined \$500,000 at the Western Magistracy this (Friday) morning for possessing medicines claiming to contain tiger ingredients.

Mr Cheung pointed out that under the Animals and Plants (Protection of Endangered Species) Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing, exporting or in possession of a highly endangered species without a licence is liable to a maximum penalty of \$5 million fine and two years' imprisonment.

The control covers a wide variety of endangered species, including their parts, derivatives and medicines containing or claiming to contain tiger and rhino ingredients.

This morning's fine is the heaviest a Hong Kong court has ever handed down to a defendant convicted under the ordinance.

"It shows that the court is also taking a serious view of such offences. We hope that the heavy fine could serve an effective deterrent with a view to contributing to the conservation of wildlife," he said.

Mr Cheung took the opportunity to call on members of the public to refrain from buying medicines containing or claiming to contain tiger or rhino ingredients as it would stimulate the demand.

He also urged the public to report any illegal activities on endangered species to AFD by calling 2733 2144.

Turning back to the case, he said following a tip-off, AFD field officers raided a medicinal shop in Wing Lok Street, Central, in May.

A total of 160 small packets of traditional medicines, all claiming to contain tiger ingredients, were seized.

The case was first heard a month ago at the Western Magistracy where the 46-year-old shop owner pleaded not guilty. The defendant, however, changed his plea to guilty this morning and was convicted by the court.

Stanley Prison inmates received certificates

Seventy-six inmates of Stanley Prison received their certificates at a presentation ceremony held today (Friday) at the prison after having recently passed various public examinations.

One of the recipients has scored the best result in accounting, beating over 2,000 entrants world-wide in the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry Examination and coming first in cost accounting. Three inmates received Full Technological Certificate of the City and Guilds of London Institute which is equivalent to a diploma in electronic engineering.

The Head of Secretariat and Corporate Affairs of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club (RHKJC), Mr David Yau, officiated at the presentation ceremony.

The RHKJC donated \$1.01 million to the Prisoners' Education Trust Fund in April this year.

The Fund was set up to encourage prisoners to obtain better educational qualifications while in prison and to better prepare them for reintegration into community upon their release.

End/Friday, November 10, 1995

Surface mail services to Rwanda resumed

The acting Postmaster General, Miss Nancy Law, announced today (Friday) that all surface mail services to Rwanda, which have been suspended since May 13, 1994, are now resumed.

End/Friday, November 10, 1995

Water cut in Eastern District

Fresh and flushing water supply to some premises in Eastern District will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Monday (November 13) to 6 am the following day to facilitate testing of water mains.

The affected area will include Price Road, Mount Butler Road, Mount Butler Drive, Wilson Road, Purves Road, Henderson Road, Goldsmith Road, Cooper Road, Creasy Road, Perkins Road, Boyce Road, Moorsom Drive, Moorsom Road, 10 Chun Fai Road and Clementi Road.

End/Friday, November 10, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
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Opening balance in the account	1,794	0930	+480
Closing balance in the account	2,047	1000	+478
Change attributable to :		1100	+478
Money market activity	+473	1200	+481
LAF today	-220	1500	+481
		1600	+473

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.0 *-0.4* 10.11.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.16	2 years	2708	6.06	100.73	5.69
1 month	5.31	3 years	3810	6.15	100.43	6.08
3 months	5.50	5 years	5009	6.95	101.53	6.68
6 months	5.54	5 years	M502	7.30	100.58	7.29
12 months	5.58					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$13,509 million

Closed November 10, 1995

End/Friday, November 10, 1995