



---

## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

---

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
GARDEN ROAD, 5th-8th FLOORS, MURRAY BUILDING,  
HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Dear DIB Clients

I write to thank you for your support over the past years in subscribing to the Daily Information Bulletin (DIB).

In the meantime, I am glad to inform you that DIB has now been uploaded onto the Hong Kong Government Home Page on the Internet (<http://www.info.gov.hk/isd/news/index.htm>) from April 1, 1997.

This arrangement has ensured that existing DIB subscribers as well as the general public can have quicker access to the press releases issued daily by the Hong Kong Government through the Information Superhighway.

Following the upgrading of services, the DIB will no longer be printed in hard copies and distributed by post to subscribers with effect from May 1, 1997.

This decision will do good to the community at large in terms of environmental protection as 3.1 million sheets of A4-size paper will be saved each year, not to mention the saving of postage and large quantity of ink for printing.

If you wish to have the DIB sent directly to your Internet e-mail account, please complete and return the attached slip to GIS, 8th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong, before May 1, 1997 or by fax through 2845 9078. You can, of course, provide your e-mail account to us through our Internet mail account : [isdnews@isd.gcn.gov.hk](mailto:isdnews@isd.gcn.gov.hk).

It is the policy of this department that we should aim at running a paperless office in the long run, but if you have difficulties in the new arrangements, please contact the undersigned at 2842 8738.

*Robert Yip*

(Robert YIP)

for Director of Information Services

---

### Return Slip

To : GIS, 8th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong  
(Attn : Robert Yip)

I would like to receive the Daily Information Bulletin  
through my Internet e-mail account \_\_\_\_\_  
from May 1, 1997.



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
GARDEN ROAD, 5th-8th FLOORS, MURRAY BUILDING,  
HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Wednesday, April 2, 1997

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Acts of criminal intimidation condemned .....	1
US report's reference to Hong Kong on IPR protection .....	1
Bill to localise Maritime Conventions Act 1911 .....	3
Media accreditation for Handover Ceremony closes on Monday .....	4
Welfare payment advanced for public holiday .....	5
Campaign against mosquito breeding .....	6
Annual report on the Consumer Price Index for 1996 on sale .....	8

### Acts of criminal intimidation condemned

\*\*\*\*\*

In response to press enquiries, a government spokesman today (Wednesday) condemned recent cases of criminal intimidation and warned that such acts carry severe penalties.

"The Police take a very serious view of recent cases of criminal intimidation against the Secretary for Housing, bomb hoax and poisonous gas threat.

"Such acts serve nothing other than causing inconvenience and disruption to members of the public in conducting their normal business.

"Police officers will spare no effort in investigating these cases and arresting the culprits," he said.

The spokesman noted that acts of criminal intimidation, hoax bomb threats and explosion with intent to injure or kill carry severe penalties. The maximum penalties for these offences range from three years to life imprisonment.

"There are proper and lawful channels for residents to express their views on government policies.

"Anyone who wishes to reflect their views to the authorities should do so through these channels," he added.

End

### US report's reference to Hong Kong on IPR protection

\*\*\*\*\*

The Hong Kong Government notes that a reference was made to Hong Kong's intellectual property rights (IPR) protection in the National Trade Estimates (NTE) Report published by the US Trade Representative on 31 March 1997.

The Report states that Hong Kong's laws provide a good legal framework for the protection of IPR.

The Report also recognises the various initiatives taken by the Hong Kong Government in enforcing IPR protection in Hong Kong.

These initiatives include increased manpower resources in the Hong Kong Customs devoted to IPR enforcement, increased raids conducted by the Hong Kong Customs, strengthening co-operation with the relevant IPR enforcement authorities in Mainland China, new provisions in the Copyright Bill to facilitate enforcement and to clarify some of the evidentiary requirements, and convictions made at the district court level against copyright piracy offenders.

A spokesman for the Trade and Industry Branch said today (Wednesday): "The Hong Kong Government remains totally committed and determined to do our utmost to put in place the best IPR regime and to enforce the regime robustly.

"We will persist with our anti-piracy efforts under the rule of law in Hong Kong. We will continue to work with copyright owners from the US and other countries and seek their support, such as testifying in Hong Kong courts of law.

"We are, however, very disappointed to see remarks in the Report claiming that government action has had little demonstrable impact.

"We have taken vigorous enforcement action against copyright piracy activities at the importation, storage, distribution and retail level. Compared with 1995, the quantity and value of seizures in connection with copyright offences in 1996 have increased by 186% and 22% respectively. In 1996, 144 persons have been imprisoned compared with only 18 in 1995.

"The Hong Kong Customs will continue to take vigorous enforcement action to combat copyright piracy.

"However, our enforcement action can succeed only to the extent that we have the full co-operation from right-holders in bringing evidence to court. Whilst major copyright owners have been helpful, there are others who are unwilling to come forward and give evidence. Their products unfortunately feature on shop shelves."

To address this specific problem, the spokesman said the Government has proposed in the Copyright Bill a number of new legislative measures, including -

- (a) provisions to enable Hong Kong Customs to exercise power of forfeiture over suspected pirated copyright products seized;
- (b) provisions to enhance Hong Kong Customs enforcement capability, to facilitate better co-operation with copyright owners, and to facilitate exchange of information with enforcement authorities of other countries; and

- (c) provisions to modify procedures to facilitate proof of copyright subsistence and ownership.

"In addition, we will further increase the manpower of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau of the Hong Kong Customs by 24 posts in 1997-98," the spokesman said.

"These measures, when implemented, would enhance the effectiveness of our anti-piracy efforts.

"The Copyright Bill is being examined by a Bills Committee of the Hong Kong Legislative Council and is expected to be passed before 1 July 1997," the spokesman added.

End

#### Bill to localise Maritime Conventions Act 1911

\*\*\*\*\*

The Government will introduce the Merchant Shipping (Collision Damage Liability and Salvage) Bill to localise the provisions of the Maritime Conventions Act 1911, a spokesman for the Marine Department said today (Wednesday).

The Act deals with the International Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules of Law with Respect to Collisions between Vessels, 1910.

The Merchant Shipping (Collision Damage Liability and Salvage) Bill also replaces those provisions relating to the International Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules of Law relating to Assistance and Salvage at Sea, 1910 with new provisions which give effect to the International Convention on Salvage, 1989.

The Maritime Conventions Act, 1911 which implements the 1910 Collision Convention and the 1910 Salvage Convention in the United Kingdom also extends to Hong Kong.

In June 1994, the British and Chinese sides reached an agreement that the two Conventions should continue to apply to Hong Kong after June 30, 1997.

However, the 1910 Salvage Convention was replaced by the 1989 Salvage Convention which was adopted under the aegis of the International Maritime Organisation and has come into force internationally on July 14, 1996.

It was also agreed that the 1989 Salvage Convention should apply to Hong Kong and should continue to apply after June 30, 1997.

The spokesman said: "The 1910 Collision Convention sets out the maritime rules regarding division of loss and contribution. It deals with the apportionment of liability or fault for loss to vessels, their cargo and freight as well as the liability for injuries to persons on board, arising from collisions at sea.

"The 1989 Salvage Convention on one hand retains the 'no cure, no pay' basic principle of the 1910 Salvage Convention.

"It seeks to remedy the deficiency of the 1910 Salvage Convention by providing exceptions in cases where salvors fail to save the ship and cargo but help to prevent or minimise damage to the environment."

The new Convention allows for special compensation to be paid to salvors.

The Bill will be published in the Government Gazette on April 4 and be tabled at the Legislative Council for first and second readings on April 9.

End

#### Media accreditation for Handover Ceremony closes on Monday

\*\*\*\*\*

Applications for media accreditation for Hong Kong's Handover Ceremony will close on Monday (April 7).

Media organisations are required to submit completed application forms along with a consolidated name list of all their staff who wish to cover the Ceremony to the Accreditation Centre of the Handover Ceremony Co-ordination Office (HCCO) before the deadline.

Freelance journalists may also apply through a bona fide media organisation which they write for, or to enclose in their applications an assignment letter from that organisation.

The forms can be returned by mail to the Centre on the 26th floor of Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, or by fax on 2519 8903. Late applications will normally not be considered.

All applicants will be notified of the result of accreditation through their media organisations, or individually as in the case of free-lancers.

"To avoid delay in processing the applications, it is important that an applicant types or prints in block letters on all the blanks on the form where applicable," said a spokesman for the HCCO.

"If an applicant fails to comply with these requirements, we may not be able to process further his or her application," the spokesman noted.

He also explained that only accredited media personnel would be allowed entry into the Press and Broadcast Centre to be set up by the Government to facilitate media coverage of the Handover and related events.

Due to space constraints, he said only a limited number of accredited media representatives would be allowed to cover from the event venues. Details will be announced later.

Enquiries on media accreditation can be made on 2582 3081, 2582 3083, 2582 3055 or 2582 3097.

End

#### Welfare payment advanced for public holiday

\*\*\*\*\*

Recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) under the bank payment system will receive their payments on Friday (April 4) if their pay day falls on the coming Ching Ming Festival (Saturday, April 5), which is a public holiday.

"Special payment arrangements will also be made for recipients of Social Security Allowance whose pay days fall on that day," a Social Welfare Department spokesman said today (Wednesday).

"Those who have bank accounts in Hongkong Bank or Hang Seng Bank can receive their payments on April 4 whereas those with accounts in other banks will get their payments on April 7," he added.

In case of doubt, recipients are advised to contact their respective social security field units.

End

#### Campaign against mosquito breeding

\*\*\*\*\*

With the approach of the summer season, the Health Education Unit of the Department of Health will launch a campaign in April and May against mosquito breeding.

During the period, the Hygiene Division's 24-hour hotline 2380 2580 will provide a message in the form of drama on mosquito prevention.

"Callers can also obtain related information through facsimile from this system," a spokesman for the department said today (Wednesday).

Entitled "Remove stagnant water to eliminate mosquito breeding", the campaign is sponsored by the Urban and Regional councils.

It aims to remind building contractors and households to take preventive measures to reduce mosquito nuisance and prevent mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria.

"To prevent mosquito infestation, it is important to eliminate all stagnant water which is the potential breeding ground for mosquitoes," the spokesman said.

"Contractors should inspect their construction sites regularly to ensure that there are no abandoned containers and empty tins holding water.

"They should pump and drain stagnant water in holes, trenches and hollow spaces and fill them up with soil.

"Spray a thin layer of diesel oil on the water surface if draining of stagnant water is impossible," he said.

The spokesman advised households to cover tightly all water containers, storage tanks and wells and leave no water in flower pot trays.

"Keep all drains free from choking," he said. "It is an offence under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance to allow the accumulation of water liable to mosquito breeding. The maximum fine for the offence is \$25,000."

During the campaign period, relevant exhibition boards will be put on public display at the Health Education Unit's resource centre on the eighth floor of the Urban Council Fa Yuen Street Complex in Mongkok.

"The centre also provides preview and loan service of educational materials like cassette tapes and video tapes.

"A variety of printed materials such as posters, leaflets and stickers are also available free from the centre," the spokesman added.

Meanwhile, the department will be sending advisory letters, educational leaflets and posters to building contractors, owners incorporations, mutual aid committees, management offices of private housing estates to enlist their support.

Educational printed materials will also be distributed through schools, district environmental hygiene offices of the Urban Services and Regional Services Departments, Home Affairs Department and Housing Department.

During the campaign period, an Announcement in Public Interest will be broadcast on radio and television to advise on the practical means of mosquito prevention. This will be supplemented by having vans broadcasting anti-mosquito messages throughout the territory.

End

Annual report on the Consumer Price Index for 1996 on sale

\*\*\*\*\*

The Annual Report on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for 1996 has recently been published by the Census and Statistics Department.

The report provides a detailed analysis of the movements of the CPI(A), CPI(B), Hang Seng CPI and Composite CPI in 1996. Charts and tables showing movements of the CPIs by individual commodity/service components, and their contributions to the overall change in the indices are also presented in the report.

The report is a bilingual publication in English and Chinese. Apart from statistics on the CPIs, the report also contains a detailed explanation of the concepts and compilation method of the CPIs so as to help readers gain a better understanding of those issues.

The report is now on sale, at HK\$28 per copy, at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, Ground Floor, 66 Queensway, and the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19/Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

For local and overseas mailings, contact should be made with the Information Services Department, 28/Floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong. Enquiries concerning this report can be directed to the Consumer Price Index Section of the Census and Statistics Department at telephone number 2805 6403.

End