



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Thursday, May 16, 1996

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Governor's statement on attacked journalist

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, issued the following statement today (Thursday):

"I was shocked by the horrific attack on the journalist, Mr Leung Tin-wai, in his office yesterday.

"We have spoken to the Police Commissioner and I know that he is throwing in all of the resources necessary to track down the assailants.

"It is appalling to think that a journalist going about his business in a free society such as Hong Kong should be the victim of such a brutal and senseless attack.

"I know that doctors and medical staff are doing everything they can to provide Mr Leung with the best of care.

"My thoughts and those of the community are with Mr Leung and his family."

End

Possible trade sanctions against China announced

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In response to the announcement of the US Trade Representative (USTR) yesterday (May 15) that the US would impose Special 301 trade sanctions against China for not implementing satisfactorily the bilateral intellectual property rights (IPR) agreement reached in February 1995, the Secretary for Trade and Industry, Miss Denise Yue, said she hoped the two sides would resolve their differences through dialogue.

"Since China and the US are our two largest trading partners, we are naturally concerned with any possible US Special 301 trade action against Chinese products. We would be very concerned with any adverse effect such measures might have on Hong Kong's economy," she said.

"Hong Kong does not support the use of sanctions. I note that the US has expressed willingness to continue discussion with the Chinese side. I remain hopeful that the issue could be satisfactorily resolved through consultations."

When asked about the Government's role in the matter, Miss Yue said: "This is primarily a bilateral trade issue between China and the US. Hong Kong does not have a direct role."

"However, we shall make an assessment of the possible impact on Hong Kong of the proposed US action against Chinese products. We shall convey the results to the US and Chinese Governments, emphasising our hope that Hong Kong's interest would be taken into account in any decisions they may take."

"The results of the impact assessment will also be passed to relevant trade associations and chambers of commerce in Hong Kong."

"Traders may wish to consider whether they wish to make any representations to the US Administration. Traders wishing to have further information are welcome to contact the Trade Department," Miss Yue said.

Yesterday, USTR published a US\$3 billion preliminary retaliation list targeting Chinese exports to the US. If China fails to take action to satisfactorily implement the 1995 IPR Agreement, prohibited tariffs will be imposed on June 17 on approximately US\$2 billion worth of products drawn from the list.

USTR also announced that it is seeking public comments on the proposed action, which can be submitted to USTR on or before June 14. Following a review of the comments received, a final list of products will be selected and the amount of tariffs increases decided.

Last year, the US announced proposed sanctions against Chinese products under the Special 301 law, while continuing with discussions with the Chinese Government. China also announced a counter-retaliatory sanction list.

The two sides reached an agreement eventually and no US or China sanctions were implemented.

End

Four pillars of HK's economic success: FS

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The Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, told a group of businessmen and professionals in Malaysia today (Thursday) that the rule of law, an enterprise spirit, a clean and efficient government and freedom of speech are the four pillars underpinning Hong Kong's economic success.

Speaking at a luncheon hosted by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute in Kuala Lumpur, Mr Tsang said the four pillars worked together to make Hong Kong one of the world's leading international financial centres.

He emphasised that the Basic Law guarantees that the common law system would be maintained in Hong Kong after 1997.

"We provide a stable and predictable legal environment in Hong Kong. Our laws are transparent; contract are respected and enforced," he said.

Mr Tsang said Hong Kong has a fine enterprise spirit whereby its laws and government policies ensure a level playing field for all.

"There is no exchange control, no distinction between indigenous and foreign interests and contracts are awarded on the ground of merits," he said.

He said Hong Kong was conscious of the need to maintain a small, efficient, open and accountable government which was free from corruption.

"Our public sector expenditure makes up about 18 percent of our gross domestic product (GDP) only. And we make a conscious effort to ensure that it does not grow faster than the economy as a whole.

"This underlines our belief in market forces and minimum government intervention in the economy," he said.

He said free flow of information, in particular market and economic information, was guaranteed in Hong Kong.

"We have freedom of speech and a vigilant press in Hong Kong, and the market is highly transparent. This enables investors to know exactly what has happened in Hong Kong and else where in the world," he said.

"It is this unique combination of qualities in Hong Kong which make Hong Kong the success story we have today."

The Financial Secretary said Hong Kong would be the premier international financial centre for China.

"As the natural gateway to China and China's window to the outside world, Hong Kong has been the major capital raising centre for China, our largest trading partners," Mr Tsang said.

He said figures released by China's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation showed that 56 per cent, or US\$20 billion, of the total utilised foreign capital in China was Hong Kong's investment in and loans to China's non-banking institutions.

"In Hong Kong we have complete freedom of movement of capital. The Hong Kong dollar is freely convertible. There is no foreign exchange control whatsoever.

"We offer the whole range of financial services in Hong Kong, including the most advanced and sophisticated financial products.

"Hong Kong's capital and investment in China therefore contributes significantly to the economic development of China, especially the southern region," Mr Tsang said.

He said Hong Kong capital was particularly important for China's manufacturing industries, land and property, and infrastructure development.

It also facilitates the sourcing of foreign raw materials, equipment and technology for China and also marketing and exporting of Chinese products to other countries.

"In partnership with Hong Kong, China's economy hence becomes more open and closely linked to the rest of the world," he said.

He told the businessmen and professional attending the luncheon that a high degree of autonomy for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region was guaranteed by the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law.

"It will be business as usual in Hong Kong in and after 1997," he said.

"The two sovereign states are committed to ensure the full and faithful implementation of the Joint Declaration, and much as already been achieved."

Before attending the luncheon, Mr Tsang visited the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange and had a very useful discussion with its Executive Chairman, Dato' Nik Mohamed Din, and other senior officials. He also called on YB Dato' Ahmad Mohd Don, Governor of Bank Negara, the central bank of Malaysia.

Mr Tsang was leading a 62-member delegation to visit Kuala Lumpur. He will leave for Singapore this evening to begin the second leg of his "Building Strategic Partnership" visit to Southeast Asia.

End

Amendments to public entertainment regulations proposed

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Amendment regulations which seek to improve the operation of the Places of Public Entertainment Regulations (PPER) will be published in the Gazette tomorrow (Friday).

A spokesman for the Recreation and Culture Branch said today (Thursday) that the purposes of the Places of Public Entertainment (Amendment) Regulation 1996 are to improve the operation of PPER and to implement the amendments made to the Places of Public Entertainment Ordinance (PPEO) in July 1995 which include limiting the power of the police and repealing the dual licensing system under PPEO.

"The two municipal councils, being the sole licensing authority to regulate the safety and hygiene of venues for public entertainment in their respective areas, will be able to provide a comprehensive and user-friendly service to applicants of places of public entertainment licences.

"Licensees will no longer be required to make separate applications to the Building Authority," the spokesman explained.

Other amendments include limiting the police power under PPER to maintaining peace and good order as prescribed in PPEO, removing any duplication with provisions in other existing legislation such as the Electricity Ordinance, and updating provisions which have become obsolete.

"We have also taken this opportunity to make a few technical and consequential amendments to the Building (Planning) Regulations, Building (Construction) Regulations and Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulations," he said.

The Places of Public Entertainment (Amendment) Regulation 1996 and the three Building (Amendment) Regulations will be tabled in the Legislative Council on May 22 and come into operation on June 28.

End

Review on implementation of youth charter released

* * * * *

Communication between family and school should be improved to foster a caring and open environment within which young people will develop a positive attitude towards life and become responsible individuals.

This is one of the recommendations contain in a report released by the Preparatory Committee on the Review of the Implementation of the Charter for Youth, which was made up of members elected from organisation subscribers to the Charter.

The Commission on Youth promulgated in July 1993 the Charter for Youth, which enunciates the principles and ideals on youth development and acts as a point of reference for policy makers, youth service providers and other parties involved in promoting the welfare of youth.

A conference on the first biennial review of the implementation of the Charter was held on November 11 last year in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. More than 100 reports were submitted from organisation subscribers on their efforts in implementing the Charter.

The conference had attracted about 500 participants from different sectors, including subscribers to the Charter, representatives from the Government and youth organisations, teachers, students and individuals.

The panel discussions focused on four topics - family and youth, health and welfare, development and participation, and rights of youth. The main recommendations are as follows:

- * To encourage the establishment of parent-teacher associations in schools and to foster better communication among schools, parents and students;
- * To improve the provision of school social work service in schools;
- * To encourage parents to allow their children to undertake more family responsibilities and greater flexibility in making their own decisions, thereby helping their children to develop confidence in themselves;
- * To strengthen family ties through better communication, mutual trust and support among family members;
- * To provide more support services to enhance the physical needs and mental development of youth, for example, through the provision of a comprehensive medical service and fostering a caring attitude in dealing with the emotional needs of the young people;
- * To protect young people against the negative influence of obscene and indecent articles while strengthening sex education in schools, including AIDS awareness and proper understanding of marriage;
- * To encourage the youth to participate in community activities by providing more channels and opportunities;
- * To arouse the youth's interest in and awareness of public affairs;
- * To develop a proper sense of social values among young people by organising more youth programmes through the concerted efforts of government, schools, parents and the media;
- * To encourage members of the community to give due recognition to the rights and interest of young people, particularly the rights to safety, protection and education;
- * To promote civic education in schools with particular reference to developing the concept of human rights among the younger age group, and to foster an environment which encourages young people to exercise their rights and assume responsibilities; and
- * To promote the concept of equal opportunities for all and to eliminate discrimination against handicapped youth in the school, workplace and social settings.

Recommendations arising from the conference have been endorsed by the Commission on Youth and incorporated into the review report.

The report is now being circulated amongst some 350 organisations and 2,000 individuals who are subscribers to the Charter, participants at the review conference and other interested organisations to enable them to take into account the proposals in developing their future work plans.

The recommendations will also be brought to the attention of the relevant policy branches and government departments for appropriate follow-up actions.

Free copies of the report are now available at Marketing Office of the Government Information Service, 17th floor, Siu On Centre, 176-192 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

End

1996-97 Land Sales Programme

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The Lands Department announced today (Thursday) that following the agreement of the Land Commission to the Government's Land Disposal Programme, the Land Sales Programme for 1996-97 would consist of 32 sites amounting to 32.22 hectares.

The breakdown of the sites, with a comparison of the actual figures for 1994-95 and 1995-96, is as follows:

	<u>User</u>	<u>Sites</u>			<u>Area (ha)</u>		
		94/95	95/96	96/97	94/95	95/96	96/97
i	Commercial/ Residential and Residential (high density)	20	13	13	14.95	9.39	7.98
ii	Residential (low density)	4	3	4	4.46	4.35	2.83

iii	Industrial	2	4	5	2.01	1.39	1.67
iv	Private Sector Participation Scheme (PSPS)	1	4	5	2.75	13.35	10.49
v	Other Uses/Petrol Filling Station	3	3	5	1.04	66.80	9.25

The acting Principal Government Land Agent, Mr Nigel Burley, said the approximate number of flats that would be produced from the Commercial/Residential and Residential high and low density sites would total 5,800 and Private Sector Participation Scheme 10,100.

In addition, he emphasised, about 10,000 flats will be generated from 23.93 hectares to be granted during 1996-97 for Airport Railway related developments.

A further 5,300 flats would be produced from two Letter A/B exchanges involving 4.5 hectares of land at Tseung Kwan O, with considerable additional flats also resulting from other land exchanges/modifications.

Compared with 1995-96 the figures were:

i	Commercial/Residential and Residential (high and low density)	7,450 flats (13.74 ha)
ii	Private Sector Participation Scheme (PSPS)	14,270 flats (13.35 ha)
iii	Airport Railway	12,280 flats (27.65 ha)

Of the 32 sites, Mr Burley said, only 13 were proposed for disposal by auction with the remainder to be sold by tender. This reflects the recommendations of the independent review panel set up in 1994 to report on auction arrangements as well as the nature of the sites concerned.

Mr Burley pointed out that in addition to the two Letter A/B Exchanges (sites in Tseung Kwan O) proposed for the traceable major holders of Letter A/B, two further sites would be tendered for Letter A/B (or Cash).

He noted that four sites amounting to 6.63 hectares had been tendered on this basis in 1995-96 but no tenders were received by Letter A/B and all sites were awarded on a cash basis.

The estimated land revenue to be received in 1996-97 compared to 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as follows:

<u>Disposal Type</u>	<u>1994/95</u> <u>(Actual)\$M</u>	<u>1995/96</u> <u>(Actual)\$M</u>	<u>1996/97</u> <u>(Estimate)\$M</u>
Auctions/Tenders	12,776	23,876	13,017
Private Treaty Grants	7,342	16,402	13,647
Exchanges/Modifications	11,239	4,603	9,234
Total	<u>31,357</u>	<u>44,881</u>	<u>35,898</u>

End

Land for residential purpose in 1996-97

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In response to media enquiries concerning a press conference on Lands Sales Programme for 1996-97 given earlier today (Thursday) by the Lands Department, the acting Principal Government Land Agent, Mr Nigel Burley, reaffirmed that out of the total 153.01 hectares approved by the Land Commission for disposal in 1996-97, 86 hectares would be partially or wholly earmarked for some forms of residential development.

Compared with last financial year, the amount for residential use, including those for auction, was 83.19 hectares.

End

Cargo working areas operating costs to be lower

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The management reform to be introduced by the Marine Department at the public cargo working areas (PCWAs) is not designed as a fee increase measure nor will it lead to a rise in operating costs, the Assistant Director of Marine (Planning and Local Services), Mr Raymond Tang, said today (Thursday).

Briefing the Legislative Council members on the reform package this afternoon, Mr Tang reiterated that the reform was seek to improve the productivity at PCWAs and to remove the undesirable practices that associated with the existing mode of operation.

All berthing spaces in nine PCWAs managed by the Marine Department will be leased out by restricted tender under the management reform package instead of the current practice to hire out the berths each day on a first-come-first-served basis.

Some participants at today's briefing as well as some operators at PCWAs believed that the operating costs will increase if the berthing spaces are leased by tender.

Mr Tang assured that the operating costs would be lower.

"The operators, as any businessmen, are naturally concerned about a rise in their costs," he said.

"We have incorporated measures to safeguard the interests of the existing operators in the new management system.

"The existing system is built on a first-come-first-served basis and under the current system an operator has to hire idle barges up to three each day in order to secure a berth.

"If he fails to mobilise a fleet of empty barges for the sole purpose of occupying a berth, he has to turn to those who are able to do so and of course at a price.

"The level of subletting fees is decided entirely by those who have secured berthing spaces and the subletting or black market fees are very costly and up to 40 times of the government fees."

Under the new system, an existing operator will be given the legal title of a berthing space through the tendering system. He will no longer be required to spend any costs to hire idle barges or to pay a subletting fee for the use of a berth.

Another advantage with a secure tenure of a berth is an operator can plan well ahead his business and does not have to worry about the availability of a berth.

Mr Tang stressed that the whole purpose of introducing the reform was not to generate additional money for the public purse but to remove the undesirable practices common in the PCWAs and to increase productivity.

"The operators themselves will be the ones benefited when productivity is improved," he added.

"Moreover, in a tendering exercise it is not the Government but the bidders who set the price."

Mr Tang described as groundless the claims that existing operators would be driven out of business and that they and their employees would lose their jobs as a result.

"Only existing operators are allowed to bid in the restricted tender to ensure none of them will be driven out of business because of the new measure," Mr Tang stressed.

Another built-in feature to protect the interests of current operators is that eligible bidders in the restricted tender are allowed to bid the same numbers of berths as they are currently occupying.

"This additional safeguard will give all existing operators a fair chance to take part in the allocation exercise through tender and also ensure that no single operator will be able to dominate a large number of berthing spaces," Mr Tang said.

End

Statistics on trade involving outward processing in China

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In the fourth quarter of 1995, 49% of Hong Kong's total exports to China were for outward processing; the figure was 72% for domestic exports, and 46% for re-exports.

On the other hand, 73% of Hong Kong's imports from China were related to outward processing, according to statistics released today (Thursday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Over the same period, 83% of Hong Kong's re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China were produced through outward processing in China.

The corresponding proportions in the fourth quarter of 1994 were 48% for total exports to China, 68% for domestic exports to China, 45% for re-exports to China, 71% for imports from China and 83% for re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China.

Taking the year 1995 as a whole, 49% of Hong Kong's total exports to China were for outward processing; the figure was 71% for domestic exports, and 45% for re-exports. On the other hand, 74% of Hong Kong's imports from China were related to outward processing.

Over the same period, 82% of Hong Kong's re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China were produced through outward processing in China. Similar proportions figures were observed in 1994.

To provide a better understanding of the nature and importance of outward processing in China initiated by Hong Kong firms, the Census and Statistics Department has been conducting a sample survey as from the third quarter of 1988 to distinguish Hong Kong's exports to China into those which are for outward processing and those which are not.

The scope of the survey has been extended as from the first quarter of 1989 to segregate Hong Kong's imports from China into those which are related to outward processing and those which are not.

Starting from the first quarter of 1991, the scope of the survey has further been extended to cover Hong Kong's re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China.

The results for the fourth quarter and the whole year of 1995 are now available.

In value terms, \$57,024 million of Hong Kong's total exports to China in the fourth quarter of 1995 were for outward processing, representing an increase of 15% over the fourth quarter of 1994.

The value of domestic exports to China for outward processing increased by 5% to \$11,112 million whilst the value of re-exports to China for outward processing grew by 18% to \$45,912 million.

Over the same period of comparison, the value of imports from China related to outward processing increased by 10% to \$101,296 million.

On the other hand, \$130,501 million of Hong Kong's re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China were produced through outward processing in China, representing an increase of 11%.

For the whole year of 1995, \$217,613 million of Hong Kong's total exports to China were for outward processing, representing an increase of 20% over 1994.

The value of domestic exports to China for outward processing increased by 5% to \$43,890 million while that for re-exports to China for outward processing grew by 25% to \$173,722 million.

Over the same period of comparison, the value of imports from China related to outward processing increased by 13% to \$399,567 million.

On the other hand, \$492,461 million of Hong Kong's re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China were produced through outward processing in China, representing an increase of 17%.

For the purpose of the survey, exports to China for outward processing refer to raw materials or semi-manufactures exported from or through Hong Kong to China for processing with a contractual arrangement for subsequent re-importation of the processed goods into Hong Kong.

Imports from China related to outward processing refer to processed goods imported from China of which all or part of the raw materials or semi-manufactures have been under contractual arrangement exported from or through Hong Kong to China for processing.

Re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China involving outward processing in China refer to processed goods re-exported through Hong Kong of which all or part of the raw materials or semi-manufactures have been exported from or through Hong Kong to China for processing with a contractual arrangement for subsequent re-importation of the processed goods into Hong Kong.

In interpreting the statistics, it should be noted that the value and proportion of imports from China and re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China involving outward processing in China refer to those of the entire goods instead of just the value added contributed by outward processing in China.

A sample of trade declarations in respect of Hong Kong's trade with China (domestic exports and re-exports to China, and imports from China) as well as Hong Kong's re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China is selected for enumeration to obtain the required information from the establishments concerned.

A spokesman for the Census and Statistics Department explained that under the internationally accepted system of recording trade flows, all movements of goods (except transshipments and goods-in-transit) across the border, whether for outward processing or not, were recorded as external trade.

Thus the movements of goods associated with outward processing are correctly included in the regular trade statistics.

The findings of the survey, however, facilitate a more informed analysis of the nature of Hong Kong-China trade. In this respect, the survey results are a useful supplement to the regular trade statistics.

The above survey results will be included in the March issue of the "Hong Kong External Trade". This report will be on sale by the end of May at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway.

It will also be available at the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, at \$122 a copy.

Enquiries on the survey results may be directed to the Trade Surveys and Research Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2582 5037.

ESTIMATED VALUE AND PROPORTION OF TRADE INVOLVING OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA, 4TH QUARTER AND THE WHOLE YEAR OF 1995

	4th qtr. <u>1995</u> (HKD Mn.)	Percentage change over 4th qtr. 1994 (%)	<u>1995</u> (HKD Mn.)	Percentage change over 1994 (%)
<u>Total trade value * :</u>				
Total exports to China	116,149	+13.9	443,817	+16.7
Domestic exports to China	15,381	- 1.3	61,432	+ 4.5
Re-exports to China	100,768	+16.6	382,385	+19.0
Imports from China	138,580	+ 7.1	536,903	+14.8
Re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China	156,689	+11.5	599,116	+16.2

Estimated value involving outward processing in China :

Total exports to China	57,024	+15.4	217,613	+20.1
Domestic exports to China	11,112	+ 4.9	43,890	+ 4.6
Re-exports to China	45,912	+18.3	173,722	+24.8
Imports from China	101,296	+ 9.7	399,567	+12.6
Re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China	130,501	+11.2	492,461	+16.5

Estimated proportion involving outward processing in China :

	4th qtr. <u>1995</u> (%)	4th qtr. <u>1994</u> (%)	<u>1995</u> (%)	<u>1994</u> (%)
Total exports to China	49.1	48.4	49.0	47.7
Domestic exports to China	72.2	68.0	71.4	71.4
Re-exports to China	45.6	44.9	45.4	43.3
Imports from China	73.1	71.3	74.4	75.9
Re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China	83.3	83.5	82.2	82.0

* The value excludes commodities and transactions not classified according to kind.

End

CS visits Stanley Prison and staff training centre

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The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, today (Thursday) visited the maximum security prison and Correctional Services Department (CSD) Staff Training Institute at Stanley to see the operation and management of the penal facility and the rigorous training programme for CSD recruits.

Accompanied by the Commissioner of Correctional Services, Mr Raymond Lai Ming-kee, and the Deputy Commissioner, Mr Pang Sung-yuen, Mrs Chan toured Stanley Prison where she visited several workshops, the kitchen, two accommodation halls and the prison hospital.

She was briefed on the prison's management and operation by the Chief Superintendent, Mr Chan Kong-sang. At present, Stanley Prison, which has a certified accommodation of 1,609, houses 1,999 inmates.

Chief Officer, Mr Lo Huen, also talked to Mrs Chan on various aspects of work at the printing and envelope-making workshops.

During a tour of the shoe-making workshop, the Chief Secretary was told the prisoners helped produce leatherware for the discipline services; and at the silk-screening workshop, she saw inmates working on a number of road signs which are exclusively produced by the Correctional Services Industries of CSD.

She also visited the garment workshop complex where she saw prisoners working in the cutting section and the television repair workshop.

The Principal Officer (Catering), Mr Cheng Shun-yan, informed the Chief Secretary of the recent renovation of the kitchen where prisoners prepare all the meals for other inmates.

At one of the accommodation halls, Assistant Officer I, Mr Li Joi-yiu, briefed Mrs Chan on the various renovations made to the cells to provide individual sanitary facilities to inmates.

The Chief Secretary also visited an accommodation hall which houses inmates serving long-term sentences as well as the institution's hospital.

At the Staff Training Institute, Mrs Chan was briefed by the Principal, Mr Au Siu-hau, on the various training programmes recruits have to go through during their six-month induction into CSD.

In the gymnasium, Mrs Chan saw how recruits are trained in self-defence. She also visited the laundry, a mock court where recruits were being taught how to handle prisoners in the dock, the command room, a mock cell, the museum, the computer training room, staff canteens, the indoor firing range and the parade ground.

End

Surveys on industrial production and real estate start

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The Census and Statistics Department today (Thursday) announced the commencement of the Survey of Industrial Production and the Survey of Building, Construction and Real Estate Sectors for 1995.

These annual surveys are part of a continuous programme to compile statistics on the structure and performance of various economic activities in Hong Kong.

They aim to obtain up-to-date statistical data for evaluating the contribution of the relevant economic activities to Hong Kong's gross domestic product and for ascertaining their cost structure, operating characteristics and output levels.

The survey results are useful to both the government and the private sector in formulating policies and making decisions.

The Commissioner for Census and Statistics, Mr Frederick Ho, appealed to the managements of all sampled establishments to fulfil their legal and social responsibilities by returning promptly the completed questionnaires and co-operating with officers of the department in the course of the surveys.

He stressed that information pertaining to individual establishments would be treated in strict confidence under the Census and Statistics Ordinance. Only aggregated information, which does not reveal details of individual establishments, will be released.

Mr Ho also pointed out that audited accounts were not essential for the supply of income and expenditure data required in the surveys.

The Census and Statistics Department accepts figures based on preliminary accounts or estimates which are correct to the best of the respondents' knowledge at the time of submission of the questionnaire, if audited accounts are not yet available.

About 11,000 establishments will be enumerated in the two surveys. The Survey of Industrial Production covers manufacturing; mining and quarrying; and electricity, gas and water.

The Survey of Building, Construction and Real Estate Sectors covers building and civil engineering construction; real estate development; architectural, surveying and project engineering; and real estate leasing, brokerage and maintenance management.

In general, information to be sought in the surveys include type of ownership; compensation of employees; consumption of materials and supplies; payments for sub-contract work; other operating expenses; gross output and business receipts; capital expenditure; and other related information on the business operation of the establishments.

The surveys are conducted under the Census and Statistics (Annual Survey of Industrial Production) (Amendment) Order 1995 and Census and Statistics (Annual Survey of Building, Construction and Real Estate Sectors) (Amendment) Order 1995 respectively, which were made under the Census and Statistics Ordinance and issued as Legal Notice Nos 76 and 77 in the Hong Kong Government Gazette on February 17 last year.

Survey questionnaires have been mailed to the sampled establishments which are required by law to complete and return to the Census and Statistics Department by July 31.

If required, officers of the department will visit individual establishments and assist them in completing the questionnaires. These officers will each carry a government identity card and a certificate for conducting the surveys while on duty, which are available for inspection.

Any enquiries regarding the Survey of Industrial Production may be directed to the Industrial Production Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2882 4167.

Enquiries concerning the Survey of Building, Construction and Real Estate Sectors may be directed to the Building, Construction and Real Estate Statistics Section on 2882 4684.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,992	0930	-33
Closing balance in the account	2,111	1000	-33
Change attributable to :		1100	-33
Money market activity	-33	1200	-33
LAF today	+152	1500	-33
		1600	-33

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 123.9 *+0.1* 16.5.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills			EF notes			
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.99	2 years	2802	6.30	100.45	6.15
1 month	5.01	3 years	3904	6.30	99.50	6.59
3 months	5.15	5 years	5103	6.75	98.51	7.24
6 months	5.23	7 years	7302	6.02	92.09	7.67
12 months	5.57	5 years	M502	7.30	99.92	7.45

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$16,376 million

Closed May 16, 1996

End