



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
EC invites views on quality school education	1
Government welcomes publication of draft ECR 7 report	3
Governor to visit Japan	4
STI to attend eighth APEC ministerial meeting	5
LRC discusses report on interception of communications	6
HKMA to issue special issues of 28-day exchange fund bills	6
86 convicted pollution cases recorded in October	7
245 VMs depart on orderly repatriation flights	7
Monitors' report submitted to CS	8
Stamp sheetlet to mark Serving the Community Week	8
Restoration for Temple of Two Gods completed	10
Garrison to open gates to public for the last time	10
Flushing water cut in Sham Shui Po and Mong Kok	11
Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results	12
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	13

EC invites views on quality school education

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The Education Commission is inviting views from the community on the consultation document for its Report No 7 (ECR 7) published today (Tuesday) with a series of recommendations aimed to enhance the quality of school education.

At a press conference to launch the consultation document, Chairman of the Commission, Professor Young pointed out that the Report represents the Commission's vision of a quality school education system which will have lasting benefits to the generations to come.

She pointed out that during a three-year study on school quality and school funding, the Commission found that there was a general lack of a quality culture in the present school system. "There is also no incentives for schools to take the initiative or to accept the responsibility for achieving quality education," Professor Young said.

To address the problems, the Commission had drawn up recommendations to help schools improve their performance and to ensure that resources for school education are being used in a most effective, efficient and accountable manner.

Professor Young outlined the major recommendations in the ECR 7 consultation document which focus on the development of school-based management; the introduction of pilot incentive schemes for schools; the establishment of a framework for developing and monitoring quality of school education; the role of the Education Department; and training of key players in the school system.

Recognising that quality reform must be school-based, the Commission feels that schools should be given the responsibility to develop their own objectives and targets because they are in the best position to assess the abilities and aptitudes of their students. They should then be required to measure their performance against those objectives and targets.

"The Commission therefore recommends that all schools should by the year 2000 practise school-based management in the spirit of the existing School Management Initiative. The move is aimed at helping schools to develop quality education according to needs of their students and at requiring the key players in the school system to be more accountable for school performance.

To build a quality culture, the Commission proposes two pilot incentive schemes to encourage schools to strive for continuous improvement.

"The concept of value-added achievement is important in providing an equitable basis for assessing performance. As an encouragement, the Commission recommends to start a pilot scheme in 1998 to give cash rewards to schools with impressive value-added improvement. As the main purpose of the awards is to give recognition to such schools, the amount does not need to be substantial and a token of not more than \$100,000 per school is suggested," Professor Young said.

"The honour that comes with the awards will help boost the morale of members of school staff and will probably be treasured more than the cash involved. Recognition other than in monetary forms should also be considered," Professor Young said.

In order to encourage schools to strive for excellence and continuous improvement, the Commission also recommends the introduction of a pilot Quality Development Grant in 1997 to fund worthwhile innovative projects on a competitive basis.

It is suggested that initially, each successful application be granted a sum of not more than \$100,000, depending on the nature and complexity of the project involved.

In addition, the Commission recommends the setting up of a Quality Development Committee to advise the Director of Education on all matters relating to quality school education.

The Commission supports the Education Department's initiative to adopt a new whole-school approach to inspections. Under this proposal, the Education Department will set up an integrated Quality Assurance Inspectorate to co-ordinate the work and to optimise the resources of the various inspection divisions of the department.

Recognising that the school funding arrangement should be more conducive to school quality reform, the ECR 7 consultation document recommends that schools should be given the necessary flexibility in the use of resources under a clear management and accountability system.

In order to achieve quality education, the Commission recommends that schools should develop a proper appraisal system for the timely counselling, training and development as well as performance appraisal of their staff members.

It is also suggested that training for key players in financial and human resources management should be strengthened in order to prepare them for the development of school-based management.

Other recommendations of the ECR 7 consultation document include :

- * Education and Manpower Branch (EMB) should undertake a comprehensive review of the present advisory system in education to co-ordinate the efforts of numerous committees to improve the quality of school education;
- * Education Department should review the roles and functions of inspectors of schools in the light of the development of school-based management;

- * EMB should co-ordinate studies regarding the interface between school curricula, examinations and tertiary admission criteria; and
- * tertiary education institutions and employers should give weight to school-based assessments of a student's achievement.

The ECR 7 consultation document is the second phase of the Commission's two-round consultation exercise to gauge public response. The first round of public consultation on broad principles was held in June this year.

Professor Young appealed to interested parties to give their comments to the Commission before the consultation exercise ends on January 15, 1997. "We will take into account public comments before finalising and presenting our recommendations to the Government early next year" Professor Young said.

Views on the ECR 7 consultation document should be sent to the Secretary, Education Commission, 9/F, Central Government Offices (West Wing), 11 Ice House Street, Central (Fax : 2537 4591) (E-mail address : embinfo@emb-gcn.gov.hk).

Copies of the consultation document are available at all District Offices and the sub-offices of the Education Department.

End

Government welcomes publication of draft ECR 7 report

* * * * *

The Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, today (Tuesday) welcomed the publication for public consultation, Education Commission's consultation document for Report No 7 on Quality School Education.

"The Administration shares the Commission's vision of a quality school education and supports the main thrust of the draft report," Mr Wong said.

He stressed that Hong Kong's school system must be able to deliver the quality of education required to develop the full potential of students; to sustain Hong Kong's social and economic growth and to meet the aspirations of the community.

He noted that the Commission's major recommendations are designed to inculcate a quality culture in the school system, to provide a framework for an accountable and efficient school-based management and a quality assurance mechanism, and to provide incentives for innovations and continuous improvement.

Mr Wong urged members of the public, particularly key players in the school system such as school sponsoring bodies, school management committees, principals, teachers, parents and relevant advisory bodies, to convey their views to the Commission before the end of the two-month consultation period on January 15, 1997.

Mr Wong thanked the Commission for undertaking a thorough study of the various important issues which will have a far-reaching effect on improving the quality of Hong Kong's school education system.

He said the Government would look forward to receiving the Commission's final recommendations which will be drawn up following the public consultation.

End

Governor to visit Japan

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, will visit Japan next week to further foster the close economic and trade relationship between Hong Kong and Japan.

He will brief ministers, parliamentarians and senior officials of the Japanese Government on the latest developments in Hong Kong and exchange views with them on matters of mutual interest.

Mr Patten will be a guest of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In Tokyo the Governor will officiate at the opening of the 19th plenary session of the Hong Kong-Japan Business Co-operation Committee and Japan-Hong Kong Business Co-operation Committee.

He will be speaking at a number of functions in Tokyo and at a reception for business and political leaders from the Kansai region in Osaka.

The Governor will leave for Japan on November 26 and will be back in Hong Kong on December 1.

End

STI to attend eighth APEC ministerial meeting

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The Secretary for Trade and Industry, Miss Denise Yue, will represent Hong Kong at the eighth Ministerial Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to be held in Manila, the Philippines on November 22 and 23, 1996.

"At the coming meeting, Ministers will consider and assess the Manila Action Plan for APEC (MAPA) drawn up by Senior Officials," said Miss Yue.

"The MAPA will contain APEC members' Individual Action Plans detailing the trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation measures that they will take between 1997 and the target dates set in Bogor to achieve free and open trade and investment in the region", she added.

The MAPA will also include APEC members' collective action plan on trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation, and joint activities on economic and technical cooperation. It will be finalised by APEC Senior Officials at their informal meeting in Manila on November 20 and 21. Mr. Alan Lai, Director-General of Trade, is Hong Kong's Senior Official to APEC.

Apart from attending the Ministerial Meeting, Miss Yue will take the opportunity to exchange views with Ministers from other APEC economies on trade and economic issues of concern to Hong Kong.

APEC is an informal forum for high level government-to-government dialogue on trade and economic issues, and at present comprises 18 members. Besides Hong Kong, other members are : Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and the USA.

At their meeting in Bogor, Indonesia in November 1994, APEC Economic Leaders declared a goal of free and open trade and investment in the region, with industrialised economies achieving this goal by the year 2010 and developing economies by 2020.

A year later, in November 1995, Economic Leaders adopted in Osaka, Japan an Action Agenda which set out a comprehensive blueprint of measures necessary to attain the Bogor goal. The Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, represents Hong Kong at the Economic Leaders Meeting.

End

LRC discusses report on interception of communications

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The Law Reform Commission met today (Tuesday) to discuss the first part of the Privacy sub-committee's report on interception of communications. The report follows consideration by the sub-committee of comments made in response to initial proposals contained in a consultation paper on this subject which was published by the sub-committee earlier this year. That paper proposed a new statutory scheme requiring application for a judicial warrant to authorise any interception of communications.

The Chairman of the Commission, Attorney General Jeremy Mathews, said that the subject was complex and important. He expected that the Commission would hold further meetings to discuss the sub-committee's report and hoped that the Commission would complete its discussions by early December. Mr Mathews said that as with every subject considered by the Commission, the Commission's final conclusions on interception of communications would then be published and made available to the public.

Mr Mathews said that the Privacy sub-committee would be turning their attention next to the question of surveillance, and whether surveillance activities should be regulated by law.

End

HKMA to issue special issues of 28-day exchange fund bills

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The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announced today (Tuesday) that it will tender two special issues of 28-day exchange fund bills to facilitate the smooth implementation of the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system in early December.

The two tap issues of 28-day exchange fund bills, each with an issue amount capped at \$5 billion, will be tendered next Tuesday (November 26) and December 3 (Tuesday). Tender notices of the two issues will be published one week prior to their respective tender dates.

Under the RTGS system, banks can make use of exchange fund bills and notes to obtain interest free intraday liquidity by carrying out intraday repurchase (repo) transactions with the HKMA.

The decision to launch the two tap issues of 28-day exchange fund bills is in response to the request of licensed banks and the strong demand for short-term exchange fund bills. While the \$54-billion exchange fund bills and notes held by banks should provide adequate liquidity to meet the requirement of the interbank payment system, it is expected that some banks may wish to play safe by holding a larger amount of exchange fund paper than is required by their payment obligations in the initial stage of RTGS implementation.

The demand is evidenced by the high over-subscription rate of the bills at recent tenders and the widening spread between exchange fund bills yields and HIBOR notwithstanding the recent announcement on the increase in the supply of three-month and six-month exchange fund bills.

Further issuance of tap issues or an increase in the size of normal maturity exchange fund bills will be reviewed in the light of market demand and actual experience in the implementation of the RTGS.

End

86 convicted pollution cases recorded in October

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A total of 86 convictions were recorded in the courts in October for breaching anti-pollution legislation enforced by the Environmental Protection Department.

Among them, 25 were convictions made under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO), 18 under the Noise Control Ordinance (NCO), 33 under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (APCO) and 10 under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO).

The fines ranged from \$2,000 to \$100,000. Rich Fortress Limited was fined \$100,000 for failure to comply with the requirement in a noise abatement notice.

End

245 VMs depart on orderly repatriation flights

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Two groups totalling 245 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) returned by air to Hanoi, Vietnam today (Tuesday) on the 75th and 76th flights under the Orderly Repatriation Programme (ORP).

Almost all of the returnees, comprising 83 men, 65 women, 46 boys and 51 girls, are from South and Central Vietnam. Only one of the returnees is from North Vietnam.

The majority of them arrived in Hong Kong in 1990, with the remaining in 1989, 1991 and 1995.

The two groups brought to 7,426 the total number repatriated on ORP flights since November 1991.

End

Monitors' report submitted to CS

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The monitors appointed to observe the Orderly Repatriation Programme operation this (Tuesday) morning have submitted their report to the Chief Secretary.

The two monitors comprised a non-official Justice of the Peace, Mr Paul Fan Chor-ho; and representative from a non-government organisation, Mr Thierry Taveaux from Medecins Sans Frontieres.

End

Stamp sheetlet to mark Serving the Community Week

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The Postmaster General Mr Robert Footman, announced today (Tuesday) that a \$5 stamp sheetlet will be issued on December 4 (Wednesday) to commemorate the Serving the Community Week.

The week is organised by the Efficiency Unit to give members of the public an opportunity to learn more about services on offer to the community, and to launch a number of service improvements within government departments.

The stamp sheetlet contains a \$5 stamp reproduced from the issue Hong Kong People released in 1989. It has been designed in cartoon form depicting the activities of various government departments.

A souvenir cover with a similar design will be put on sale at all post offices as from Thursday (November 21) at \$1 each. A message from the Chief Secretary is printed on the back of the envelope.

The stamp sheetlet was designed by Mr Arde Lam and printed by Walsall Security Printers Ltd of the United Kingdom. The selling price of this stamp sheetlet is \$5.

It will be on display for the advance information of the public at the General Post Office, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Tsuen Wan Post Office and Sha Tin Central Post Office as from Thursday. Advance orders for serviced souvenir covers will be accepted at all post offices from November 21 to 27. The minimum number of covers per order is five.

A restriction of 10 stamp sheetlets per customer queuing will be imposed on the first day of issue.

A special postmark will also be introduced on December 4.

On the first day of issue, hand-back service will be provided at all post offices to official and privately-made souvenir covers.

As on previous occasions of first day issue of new stamps, the following 22 post offices will open at 8 am on December 4:

Hong Kong

General Post Office, Aberdeen, Shau Kei Wan, Sai Ying Pun, Tsat Tsz Mui, Wan Chai, Wah Fu

Outlying Islands

Cheung Chau

Kowloon

Tsim Sha Tsui, Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon Central, Kowloon City, Kwun Tong, Tseung Kwan O, To Kwa Wan

New Territories

Yuen Long, Sha Tin Central, Sai Kung, Shek Wu Hui, Tuen Mun Central, Tai Po, Tsuen Wan

End

Restoration for Temple of Two Gods completed

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A rehabilitation ceremony to mark the opening of I Shing Kung, which literally means the Temple of Two Gods, in Yuen Long will be held tomorrow (Wednesday).

The temple was declared a monument in June 1996 and is one of the 63 in Hong Kong.

Being a rare surviving example of its kind, it has retained most of its original features. The green-brick two hall structure has an open courtyard, with covered aisles on both sides. The left aisle was formerly used as a kitchen to prepare basin meals during the Ta Chiu Festival. The roof ridge is of simple geometric design and wall friezes are decorated with leafy and floral moulding.

The temple was built by the villagers in Wang Chau area in Yuen Long to worship the two deities, Hung Shing and Che Kung. According to inscriptions on the temple bell, which is the oldest surviving relic, the building was probably constructed in the 57th year of the Kangxi reign (1718) of the Qing Dynasty.

Other relics of the temple include couplets, plaques and bronze incense burners.

The Jockey Club funded restoration was carried out by the Architectural Services Department under the supervision of the Antiquities and Monuments Office of the Broadcasting, Culture and Sport Branch. It took six months to complete.

End

Garrison to open gates to public for the last time

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Ships, helicopters and assault craft will feature in spectacular action displays when the Royal Navy and the territory's own soldiers, the Hong Kong Military Service Corps (HKMSC) open the gates of Stonecutters Island to the public this weekend.

On what will be the last ever Open Days held by the British Garrison, the two branches of the Armed Services will be mounting a weekend-long programme of public events on Saturday (November 23) and Sunday (November 24).

Highlights of the weekend will include action displays in the basin of HMS Tamar and a full programme of arena demonstrations by the Motorcycle Display Team from 29 Transport Squadron of the Royal Logistic Corps, the Dog Display Team from the Hong Kong Defence Animal Support Unit together with traditional lion and dragon dances.

Music throughout the weekend will be provided by the Band of the Brigade of the Gurkhas and the Corps of Drums from 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment.

The final Garrison Open Days are being staged to raise money for the Locally Enlisted Personnel Trust, the charity established by the British Forces to provide funds for Hong Kong Chinese ex-members of the Garrison who may find themselves in need of assistance after 1997. The two-day event will also allow the public access to various units of the military and demonstrate how the Garrison operates.

Also open to the public will be a variety of souvenir shops, games stall and military displays, some of which will provide opportunities to examine and handle selected items of military equipment.

End

Flushing water cut in Sham Shui Po and Mong Kok

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The flushing water supply to some premises in Sham Shui Po and Mong Kok will be temporarily suspended from 9 am to 5 pm on Friday (November 22) for alteration works on watermains.

The suspension will affect all premises in the area bounded by Castle Peak Road, Po Lun Street, Sham Shui Po seafront, Cherry Street, Tong Mei Road, Mong Kok Road, Sai Yee Street, Bute Street, Kowloon Canton Railway, Cornwall Street, Nam Cheong Street and Ching Cheung Road.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

Tender date	19 Nov 1996	19 Nov 1996
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q647	H678
Issue date	20 Nov 1996	20 Nov 1996
Maturity date	19 Feb 1997	21 May 1997
Coupon	-	-
Amount applied	HK\$9,817 MN	HK\$3,080 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$2,000 MN	HK\$1,000 MN
Average yield accepted	4.90 PCT	5.00 PCT
Highest yield accepted	4.91 PCT	5.01 PCT
Pro rata ratio	About 60 PCT	About 66 PCT
Average tender yield	4.93 PCT	5.02 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning 25 Nov 1996:

Tender date	25 Nov 1996	26 Nov 1996
Paper on offer	EF notes	EF bills
Issue number	7311	Q648
Issue date	26 Nov 1996	27 Nov 1996
Maturity date	26 Nov	26 Feb 1997
Tenor	7 years	91 days
Amount on offer	HK\$500+100 MN	HK\$2,000+500 MN
Coupon	6.80 PCT	-

Tender date	26 Nov 1996	26 Nov 1996
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Y696	Q061
Issue date	27 Nov 1996	27 Nov 1996
Maturity date	26 Nov 1997	27 Dec 1996
Tenor	364 days	30 days
Amount on offer	HK\$500+150 MN	HK\$5,000 MN
Coupon	-	-
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	2,469	0930	+428
Closing balance in the account	2,168	1000	+428
Change attributable to:		1100	+428
Money market activity	+434	1200	+437
LAF today	-735	1500	+437
		1600	+434

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.3 *+0.0* 19.11.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/MTRC notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.90	2 years	2811	5.72	100.09	5.75
1 month	4.90	3 years	3910	6.28	100.70	6.10
3 months	4.93	5 years	5109	7.32	103.10	6.66
6 months	5.01	7 years	7308	7.24	102.18	6.95
12 months	5.25	10 years	1610	7.37	101.85	7.23
		5 years	M503	7.35	101.91	6.99

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$5,929 million

Closed November 19, 1996

End