



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Sunday, July 21, 1996

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Energy Advisory Committee holds inaugural meeting

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The newly appointed Energy Advisory Committee, chaired by Professor Charles Kao Kuen and to advise the Government on energy policy matters including energy efficiency and conservation, held its first meeting today (Saturday).

During the meeting, data on energy consumption were reviewed and progress made with energy efficiency and conservation programmes was discussed.

Members were briefed on the terms and objectives of the scheme of control agreements between the Government and the power companies and the companies' electricity generating capacity.

They were also informed of a forthcoming study of the feasibility of introducing a common carrier system for gas supply in Hong Kong. The system was recommended by the Consumer Council as a means of increasing competition in the gas supply market and the Government has agreed to study its feasibility.

The study is expected to be completed by March next year and the findings will be presented to the Committee for advice in due course.

The next meeting will be held in September.

End

Dr Sex Hotline launched

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Members of the public, in particular young people, can now seek free expert advice on sex related issues through the Dr Sex Hotline on 2337 2121, a 24-hour pre-recorded telephone and facsimile service which provides comprehensive information on sex.

Sponsored by AIDS Trust Fund and Health Care and Promotion Fund, Dr Sex Hotline is organised by the Hong Kong Sex Education Association and supported by the Department of Health.

Speaking at the launching ceremony of the Hotline today (Saturday), the President of Hong Kong Sex Education Association, Mr Li Man-chiu, said nowadays the need of sexual knowledge by adolescents was becoming vital but the society did not provide enough channels to meet their demands.

Mr Li said when young people came across any sexual doubts, they were too shy to talk about the problems with their parents, teachers or social workers and they tended to find out the answers through the media, or even pornography videos and magazines.

Through the implementation of the Dr Sex Hotline, it is hoped that the young generation could acquire positive understanding and develop proper concepts about sex related issues.

"Since the Hotline is not manned by counsellors, it would help ease the embarrassing feeling of the young people and encourage them to use the Hotline," Mr Li said.

Dr Sex Hotline provides information on the following six main areas to the public in Cantonese and English:

- * Sex: physiological, psychological and behavioural problems
- * Myths about sex
- * Sexually transmitted diseases
- * Love and marriage
- * Pregnancy and contraception
- * Sex and law

The launching ceremony of the Hotline was held at the Hall of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong.

Also officiating at the ceremony were Professor Ng Man Lun of the Department of Psychiatry, Hong Kong University Dr, Legislative Councillor, Mr Cheng Kar Foo, and five AIDS Awareness Ambassadors, Mr Hung Chiu-fung, Ms Li Pik-sum, Mr Gary Ngan, Mr Paul Tse and Ms Pamela Pak.

AIDS awareness ambassadors were appointed by the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS in its campaign for 1996.

End

Contribution of outstanding volunteers recognised

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In recognition of their contribution to the Summer Youth Programme, 30 outstanding volunteers have been awarded scholarship to conduct a 7-day study tour to Singapore.

Comprising mainly secondary school and tertiary students, the group of outstanding volunteers will start their trip on July 28, visiting places like social service and youth institutes, government departments and other social and community establishments.

At a ceremony to mark the onset of the study tour today (Saturday), Deputy Director of Home Affairs, Mr Lee Lap-sun, congratulated the awardees on their achievements and thanked them on behalf of the Summer Youth Programme Committee for their contribution to the programme.

He said the Summer Youth Programme Scholarship was set up in 1977 with the objective of fostering service spirits among today's youngsters.

The Committee was convinced that, through participating in volunteers service, youngsters are not only helping those in need, they are also equipping themselves for their own future.

Among the 44 awardees this year, 30 opted to join the 7-day Study Tour to Singapore while the rest preferred to enrol in other outward bound courses.

In the past 19 years more than 300 youth volunteers have benefited from the Summer Youth Programme Scholarship Award Scheme.

End

\$63 million Lotteries Fund approved

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A total of \$63,049,400 has been approved from the Lotteries Fund to finance various social welfare service programmes during the second quarter of 1996, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Saturday).

"Of the amount, \$9,223,700 are earmarked to family and child welfare services, \$25,585,100 to elderly and medical social services, \$24,434,000 to rehabilitation services, \$2,913,100 to youth services, \$287,000 to services for offenders, \$21,000 to community development services and \$585,500 to social welfare support programmes," the spokesman said.

The Lotteries Fund was established for the purpose of financing, by way of a grant, loan or an advance, the operation or development of social welfare services and medical or educational projects with a welfare content.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$ million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,828	09:30	+130
Closing balance in the account	1,868	10:00	+130
Change attributable to:		11:00	+130
Money market activity	+130	11:30	+130
LAF today			-90

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.0 *-0.1* 20.7.96

End

Hong Kong Annual Report on Internet

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The best selling Hong Kong Annual Report is now available in the government homepage on the Internet in both English and Chinese.

This marks the Government's commitment to disseminating information to Hong Kong people and users world-wide through the modern information superhighway.

The latest issue of the year book - Hong Kong 1996 - is the 50th edition in a series of annual reports prepared by the Government after World War II.

A spokesman for the Government Information Services said today (Sunday) that reading the report in the Hong Kong Government Information Centre (GIC) - the homepage of the government on the Internet - was an interesting and efficient way to browse through major events and activities of the Government taking place last year.

"The home page provides shortcuts for viewing prescribed contents of the report. The whole year book is systematically divided and sub-divided into various topics to help Internet users to go straight to the desired content," he said.

The 140 photographs of the year book can be found in the Photo Gallery. Neatly grouped under seven topics, Internet users may grasp the momentum of development of Hong Kong by browsing through the collection of photographs.

The year book in GIC can be accessed at <http://www.info.gov.hk/isd/hk96>.

The spokesman said the number of visitors to GIC had been increasing steadily since its launch in December 1995. The number of visits to the homepage has grown from 14,467 in December to 26,083 last month. So far, more than 1.2 million visits have been made to all the pages.

He said new homepages of various government departments, policy branches and related organisations were continually being added to the Hong Kong Government homepage.

At present, 37 policy branches, government departments and related organisations have set up their own homepages and can be accessed in GIC.

"We are making every effort to enrich the contents to meet the increasing demand and expectation from Internet users on the GIC which certainly will become one of the major communication channels between the Government and the general public in the near future," said the spokesman.

End

Child care fee assistance invited

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Members of the public whose children are enrolled in child care centres including day creches and day nurseries are invited to apply for financial assistance from the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

To be qualified for fee assistance, children in a child care centre should be under six years old, a department spokesman said today (Sunday).

"Parents or guardians who wish to apply must demonstrate that they cannot afford the full cost of the fees charged.

"They must also demonstrate that they are unable to provide adequate care for their children at home during the day, for reasons such as both parents having to work to earn a living, the child belonging to a single-parent family or family with presence of an aged or disabled member who needs special care," he said.

The spokesman said the amount of assistance payable was calculated with regard to the family's net income which was the difference between the family's total income and the recognised rent.

"The maximum amount of assistance payable will be based on the fees charged in aided child care centres. For 1995-96, the general maximum fee assistance level is set at \$3,445 per month for day creches and \$1,965 per month for day nurseries.

"Applications for the fee assistance scheme may be made throughout the year, but should preferably be lodged three months before the date of the child's admission to a child care centre," the spokesman said.

However, staff from SWD's social security field units will, from June to August, go to the child care centres to help needy parents process applications in batches.

To further publicise the scheme, SWD has recently re-printed a leaflet - Fee Assistance Scheme for Child Care Centres.

Copies of the leaflets can be obtained at child care centres, social security field units and district offices throughout the territory.

Interested persons who have enquiries about the fee assistance scheme can approach their respective social security field units or contact the Child Care Centre Advisory Inspectorate on 2835 2725.

End

Fresh water cut in Yau Tong and Yuen Long

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The fresh water supply to some premises in Yau Tong and Yuen Long Industrial Estate will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (July 24) to 6 am the following day to facilitate waste detection work on watermains.

In Yau Tong, the suspension will affect Blocks 11 to 16, Yau Tong Estate and all building sites along both sides of Yan Wing Street.

In Yuen Long Industrial Estate, the suspension will affect:

- * Nos 1-10 Fuk Wang Street;
- * Nos 1-3, 2, 6, 8 and 15-27 Wang Lok Street;
- * Nos 1 and 2-12 Wang Lee Street; and
- * Nos 95-99 Fuk Hi Street.

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