



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

Saturday, January 6, 1996

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
HK-Guangdong Environmental Protection Liaison Group meets	1
New Southern District Officer	1
Exhibition on slope maintenance opens in Sham Shui Po	2
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	3

Sunday, January 7, 1996

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Transcript of Secretary of State's media session	4
32 shopowners fined for selling substandard plugs	7
Visitor centre closed for renovation	7

HK-Guangdong Environmental Protection Liaison Group meets

* * * * *

The sixth meeting of the Hong Kong-Guangdong Environmental Protection Liaison Group will be held in Guangzhou on Monday and Tuesday (January 8 and 9).

The Hong Kong delegation will be led by the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Bowen Leung, and the Guangdong delegation by the Director of Environmental Protection Bureau of Guangdong Province, Mr Wang Yinkun.

The meeting will discuss the work of the HK-Guangdong Environmental Protection Liaison Group in 1996 and the final report submitted by the Technical Sub-group on joint monitoring of Deep Bay.

Members will also be briefed on matters of mutual interest including water quality management in Deep Bay, environmental planning in the Pearl River Delta economic zone, Shenzhen's economic development and planning, the Air Pollution Index system in Hong Kong, the establishment of marine parks and designation of Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay as a RAMSAR site.

End

New Southern District Officer

* * * * *

Mrs Erika Hui will assume the post of Southern District Officer on January 8 (Monday), replacing Ms Chang King-yiu.

Mrs Hui, aged 32, joined the Government as an administrative officer in 1985 and was promoted to senior administrative officer in April 1992.

She has worked in the Education and Manpower Branch, Health and Welfare Branch, OMELCO, Monetary Affairs Branch and Financial Services Branch. Her last posting was Principal Assistant Secretary with the Home Affairs Branch.

End

Exhibition on slope maintenance opens in Sham Shui Po

The second of a series of exhibitions on slope maintenance will begin next Monday (January 8) at the atrium of the Dragon Centre in Sham Shui Po.

The exhibition will last for a week until January 14 and will be open daily between 10 am and 10 pm.

Organised by the Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) of the Civil Engineering Department, the exhibition is part of the department's continuing efforts in promoting public awareness of the importance of slope maintenance.

The exhibition will feature various aspects of proper slope maintenance by means of colourful illustrations, photographs, charts and graphs.

Also being displayed at the exhibition are two guide books on slope maintenance, namely the "Geoguide 5 - Guide to Slope Maintenance" and the "Layman's Guide to Slope Maintenance".

Visitors will also be able to take home leaflets on slope maintenance and the "Layman's Guide to Slope Maintenance".

"The first exhibition, held last month at Hung Hom, had drawn a substantial interest from members of the public," a spokesman for the Geotechnical Engineering Office said today (Saturday).

"After Sham Shui Po, we will then move on to the Peninsula Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui East, where the same exhibition will be mounted from February 5 to 12," he said.

Information on slope maintenance can also be obtained by calling the GEO's 24-hour automatic hotline 2762 5165.

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	2,221	09:30	-200
Closing Balance in the account	1,107	10:00	-200
Change Attributable to:		11:00	-200
Money Market Activity	-200	11:30	-200
Laf Today	-914		

Laf Rate 4.25% Bid/6.25% Offer TWI 123.3 *+0.1* 6.1.96

End

Transcript of Secretary of State's media session

* * * * *

Following is the transcript of the media session by the British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind, on his arrival in Hong Kong last (Saturday) evening:

Foreign Secretary: Good evening. I'm very very pleased to be back in Hong Kong on my first visit to Hong Kong as Foreign Secretary, but not my first visit to Hong Kong itself. Serving the interest of the people of Hong Kong is one of the most important priorities for the British Government over the next 18 months. And therefore I see this visit to Hong Kong as being of particular significance in order to have discussions with the Governor, to hear his views on some of the outstanding issues, to hear from the members of Legco who I'll be meeting in the near future, to hear from other people in Hong Kong their views on the particular problems, on the challenges we are going to be facing together, ensuring that the changes that will take place in 1997 will be as successful as we all believe and hope. I then go on to China, to Peking. And I see myself going to China as an advocate for Hong Kong, ensuring that together with the Governor and together with all those who are working for the best interest of the people of Hong Kong we can ensure that Hong Kong continues to have the bright future that it can feel itself entitled to look forward to. Now I'm happy to answer one or two questions.

Question (from ITN): Can you tell us, did your Government ...?

Foreign Secretary: If you don't mind, this evening I would like to just concentrate on Hong Kong...

Question: You are still Foreign Secretary. I beg your pardon.

Foreign Secretary: Absolutely. This evening, I'll answer questions on Hong Kong. There will be other opportunities on other subjects. Otherwise it is unfair to those who wish to ask about Hong Kong.

Question: Were there any further discussions in London on the right of abode for Hong Kong Chinese?

Foreign Secretary: Not in the last couple of weeks or so. I have no doubt the questions with regard to visas and visa free access and matters of that kind will be addressed in the not-too-distant future. My visit to Hong Kong, my visit to China will be an opportunity to hear some thoughts and ideas on this subject.

Question: Will you ask Director Lu Ping to meet Governor Chris Patten?

Foreign Secretary: Well. We believe that all contacts are very very valuable indeed. The Governor represents the views of the British Government. It's very important that dialogue should take place with all who can contribute to the well-being of the people of Hong Kong. And therefore contacts with the Governor, with others who have interest and importance on matters to contribute are highly desirable and highly worth pursuing.

Question: But they haven't met for quite a long time.

Foreign Secretary: Well, it would be very good if they could recommence.

Question: Do you have any plans to try and persuade the Chinese not to dismantle Legco in its current form?

Foreign Secretary: We see no good reason at all why Legco should be dismantled. Legco has been properly elected and we believe it would be very desirable for Legco to be able to continue to operate throughout its full term of office. We believe that would be in the interest of every one including the aspirations of the Chinese Government themselves quite properly have.

Question: Will ... to Beijing?

Foreign Secretary: I've no doubt that the subject of Legco will be one of the items that we will be discussing and indeed I will be meeting Legco here in Hong Kong and hearing their views on just those matters.

Question: Will you be raising human rights? Will you be mentioning human rights?

Foreign Secretary: We traditionally do raise these sort of subjects when we meet the Chinese leaders. When I met the Chinese Foreign Minister in London, that subject was raised and I've no doubt it would be raised in future occasions as well.

Question: Will you be raising the question of ... the proposals ... the Bill of Rights?

Foreign Secretary: We already have made our views known on that. We have received quite strong representations from Hong Kong. We understand these representations. We believe they have very considerable force and we have made our views known to the Chinese Government and I have no doubt that will also be one of the subjects that will be discussed in Peking.

Question: What sort of thorny issues you will raise to the Chinese leaders about Hong Kong. You say that the coming 18 months, the Hong Kong time will be very tough.

Foreign Secretary: There's been a lot of good progress over the last period and when the Chinese Foreign Minister was in London we made good progress in a number of outstanding issues. Inevitably as we approach June 1997 there are a number of matters still to be finally dealt with, a range of issues. I will be happy to cover all of them with my Chinese colleagues when I see them in Peking. But first I want to hear the views of the Governor, the views of Legco, the views of the people of Hong Kong so that I can be fully informed, very sensitive to how these matters are seen in Hong Kong because it's Hong Kong's interest that we are very determined to ensure are made known and are taken account of.

Question: What sort of proposals you would talk about on assistance to the Preparatory Committee?

Foreign Secretary: So far as that particular matter is concerned, the membership has now been announced. We were disappointed that they weren't more of those who represent the democratic point of view who were appointed to that particular organisation. But it did have a broader representation than at one stage seemed possible. So we welcome the fact that there was a broader representation than at one time impossible. Wish have gone further. We will be of course co-operating with them. That has been made clear by the Governor. It's a sensible thing to do and I look forward to that happening.

Question: How about the 400 people selection committee selecting the future Chief Executive?

Foreign Secretary: Well, we have to see what happens. The question of the appointment of the Chief Executive Designate is a very, very crucial matter. I am sure it will be handled in a very sensitive way because I think every one recognises that will a matter of very great importance to the confidence that the people of Hong Kong will rightly wish to have in their future government. Thank you very much. There will be other opportunities for a press conference.

Question: What is the role of Governor Chris Patten in the handover ceremony?

Foreign Secretary: Well, I have no doubt the Governor will have a very full role in the final ceremony. The detail is still to be worked out. But I have no doubt that it will be a very important should be.

Governor: I will see you on the night.

End

32 shopowners fined for selling substandard plugs

* * * * *

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has in the past three months (October to December) successfully prosecuted 32 shopowners and companies who violated the Plugs and Adaptors (Safety) Regulation (PASR).

An EMSD spokesman today (Sunday) urged shopowners to refrain from selling substandard plugs, adaptors and electrical products, or they would face prosecutions.

"The PASR, which came into effect on March 23, 1995, bans the sale of plugs, adaptors and electrical products not meeting the safety standards prescribed in the regulation.

"Any person who contravenes the PASR is liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and six months' imprisonment on first conviction and a maximum fine of \$100,000 and six months' imprisonment on the second and subsequent conviction," he said.

Meanwhile, the spokesman said that since the implementation of the PASR, EMSD had carried out 1,700 inspections at various locations throughout the territory.

"A commonly found offence during the inspections is that some suppliers are still selling electrical products fitted with 2-pin plugs or substandard 3-pin plugs.

"We will continue our territory-wide inspections and follow-up legal actions, if necessary," the spokesman stressed.

End

Visitor centre closed for renovation

* * * * *

The popular Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre will be closed from Tuesday (January 9) for maintenance and renovation of displays.

The renovation programme, to be sponsored by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, will take about six months to complete.

The Agriculture and Fisheries Department's (AFD) Senior Country Parks Officer, Mr Lai Ching-wai, said the department was extremely grateful to the charities trust for the \$1 million grant, adding that country park visitors would stand to benefit.

Mr Lai said the donation would be used to upgrade facilities and exhibits in the centre with a view to giving it new impetus and innovative themes.

"The existing displays at the centre, which were installed more than 10 years ago and have since not been replaced, are now showing signs of deterioration. Some of the information in the displays is out-dated and needs updating," he said.

The trust's generous donation could not have come at a time more appropriate than this, he added.

Mr Lai noted that the Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre was one of the most popular centres in Hong Kong with more than 200,000 visitors recorded last year.

During the closure of the centre, people could still make use of the six other visitor centres in the territory, he said.

These visitor centres are located in country parks in Aberdeen, Tai Mo Shan, Clear Water Bay, Shing Mun and Plover Cove as well as in the Lions Nature Education Centre in Tsiu Hang, Sai Kung.

Country park visitor centres are open to the public daily between 9.30 am and 4.30 pm, except Tuesdays.

No advance booking is required for visiting these centres. Organised groups which need information for planning visits to these centres can contact AFD's Conservation Education Unit on 2733 2121.

End