



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Friday, July 26, 1996

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GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT
HONG KONG

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Experts talks on new mobile communications services

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The Sino-British Joint Liaison Group will hold Expert Talks in Hong Kong tomorrow (Saturday) to discuss new mobile communications services.

The British team will be led by British Representative Mr Alan Paul. The Chinese team will be led by Chinese Representative Mr Chen Zuo'er. They will be assisted by experts from the two sides.

End

Town Planning White Bill published

* * * * *

The Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Bowen Leung, today (Friday) released for public consultation until the end of this year the Town Planning White Bill which seeks to make the statutory planning process more accountable to the public and more effective in guiding developments towards a more desirable and efficient land use pattern.

One of the new features in the White Bill is that planning study will be published for public inspection and comment for three months before a new outline zoning plan is prepared or major amendment is made to an existing plan.

The White Bill will also ensure that there will be adequate time for public to comment on draft plans. New draft plans will be available for public inspection for two months and amendment plans for six weeks.

Members of the public can make representations to the Town Planning Board (TPB) either in support of or in opposition to particular provisions in a draft plan. The representations will be published for one month during which the public could send views on the representations to TPB.

Mr Leung said: "This revised consultation process is a big improvement over the present system where public could only comment on a draft plan after publication.

"By allowing the public to have an early input into the planning process, it will enable TPB to take account of public views before making a decision on the necessary adjustments to a draft plan," Mr Leung added.

Another new feature in the White Bill is to provide more certainty to development by introducing a planning certificate as a pre-requisite for Building Authority's approval of building plans. This will ensure that all new building works comply with the relevant statutory plans and conditions of planning permission. Planning Certificate will have effect for a period of two years, during which the certified development would not be affected by any change in zoning restrictions

Other new features in the White Bill include:

- The Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands is empowered to make regulations to require certain classes of development, which may cause a health or safety hazard or a significant environmental impact, to obtain planning permission from TPB.
- TPB may designate an area as an environmentally sensitive area where planning permission is required for all developments within the area.
- All planning applications will be published for public comment for one month and such applications must be considered within three months.
- TPB's power in controlling all relevant planning parameters, such as building height, building intensity and provision of public facilities, will be set out explicitly.
- More than one Deputy Chairman and one secretary can be appointed to TPB and TPB members are required to declare interest.

Mr Leung said: "The White Bill was drawn up after the Government had considered carefully views expressed during the consultation on the Comprehensive Review of the Town Planning Ordinance in 1991 and the recommendations made by a Special Committee on Compensation and Betterment to consider complex and contentious issues.

"The Bill was drafted with the spirit to make the planning process more transparent and to provide adequate forward planning and effective control on land uses in order to meet the community's needs."

"The Government will consider carefully all views expressed during the consultation before finalising the Bill for introduction into the Legislative Council," Mr Leung added.

The consultation document on the White Bill will be available for collection from the Planning Department, Government Publications Centre and district offices from tomorrow.

Views on the White Bill can be sent in writing on or before December 31, 1996 to the Planning Department, 16th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong (Fax: 28770389 or E-mail: oprs@isd.gcn.gov.hk.)

End

Oil spill compensation for Ma Wan mariculturists settled

* * * * *

Agreement has been reached between mariculturists and Hong Kong United Dockyards (HKUD) over the compensation for the Ma Wan Fish Culture Zone affected by the recent oil spill.

At yesterday's meeting chaired by the District Officer, Tsuen Wan and participated by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD), the parties concerned tentatively agreed on an amount of \$3.25 million as compensation.

Commenting on the issue, an AFD senior fisheries officer, Dr Patsy Wong, said that she was pleased with the speedy settlement, adding that it was a result of the strenuous efforts from all parties concerned.

She was particularly appreciative of HKUD and Chairman of the Ma Wan Fishermen's Rights Association, Mr Fok Hei for their conciliatory and co-operative attitude during their discussions in the past few weeks.

Thanks should also go to members of a July 19 tasting panel who had helped ascertain the 'no tainting' for the cultured fish from Ma Wan, she said.

Dr Wong took the opportunity to express her gratitude to relevant government departments including the Tsuen Wan District Office and Marine Department without which the issue would not have been settled as smoothly as it was now.

She admitted that apart from acting as an arbitration party in the compensation discussions, AFD had been giving expert advice, technical assistance and logistic support to affected mariculturists ever since the oil spill. Necessary data and assistance were also rendered to HKUD so that the issue could be settled in a fair and appropriate manner.

End

Survey shows film censorship standards acceptable

* * * * *

The public is generally satisfied with the existing film classification system and censorship standards, according to a biennial survey commissioned by the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA).

The survey which took place between April and June, covered a sample of 543 members of the public of different age and sex groups, education levels and occupations. They included 63 young persons aged between 13 and 17, 160 parents with children under 17, and 320 other adults.

Results of the survey which were released today (Friday) indicated that 95 per cent of the respondents showed wide support and acceptance of the existing system while 81 per cent considered the new categories IIA and IIB helpful in the selection of films, both for themselves and for their children.

On film censorship standards, the respondents' declared attitudes were different from their reactions to film segments shown to them.

Respondents' general attitude was that 32 per cent considered the current censorship standards just right, 25 per cent considered the standards strict and 39 per cent considered them lenient.

However, after viewing segments of films already classified, the respondents' actual assessments confirmed that TELA's film censorship standards were broadly in line with community expectations.

Out of the 36 film segments featuring either sexuality, violence, horror, objectionable language, offensive behaviour or triad depiction, the respondents considered TELA's censorship decisions in 27 cases as appropriate, six cases as strict and three cases as lenient.

Censorship standards on film dialogues were generally endorsed. Of the 16 dialogues studied in the survey, the respondents considered TELA's decisions appropriate in eight cases, strict in two cases and lenient in five cases. There was a higher tolerance level for foul expressions in languages other than Cantonese.

The survey further showed that 63 per cent of the young persons interviewed had seen Category III films at either their homes or their friends' homes, but not in cinemas.

A spokesman for TELA said this was an area where parents must pay attention and give their children guidance. He added that the Authority would step up publicity on the film classification system so as to increase community awareness.

Since the coming into effect of the amended Film Censorship Ordinance in November last year, Category III film titles and advertising materials also require censorship. The survey revealed that the great majority of TELA's censorship decisions on these items were accepted as appropriate.

Of the 10 film titles shown in the survey, the respondents considered TELA's decisions appropriate in eight cases, strict in one and lenient in another. And on the 10 Category III film posters shown to them, they regarded TELA's decisions in five cases as appropriate, three as strict and two as lenient.

During the survey, 140 of TELA's film censorship public advisers were also interviewed as a separate group. The results showed that on the whole, their views were in line with those of the general public respondents.

TELA conducts a public opinion survey once every two years to gauge the community's views so as to ensure that the film classification system and the censorship standards can be kept in line with the expectation of the community.

End

Appointments to the Hong Kong Examinations Authority

* * * * *

The Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, has appointed Mr Joseph Chow Ming-kuen to succeed Mr Kenneth H Fang as Chairman of the Hong Kong Examinations Authority (HKEA) for three years starting August 1.

Dr Tam Man-kwan has been re-appointed as the Deputy Chairman of the Authority for two years with effect from the same date.

Mr Chow is currently the Vice-chairman of the Engineers Registration Board and a member of the Hong Kong Housing Authority. He is also the Managing Director of JMK Consulting Engineers.

Dr Tam has been serving as a member of HKEA since 1980 and is the Principal of Pak Kau English School.

New members appointed to the Authority are:

- * Professor Raymond McDonald Anderson, Associate Director (Academic), Hong Kong Institute of Education;
- * Miss Eliza Chan Ching-har, consultant of Jewkes and Partners;
- * Mr Lawrence Chan Hok-man, Principal of Valtorta College;
- * Mr Cheng Chi-leung, Vice-Principal of SKH Bishop Mok Sau Tseng Secondary School;
- * Mr Kwok But, Vice-Principal of Sing Yin Secondary School;
- * Mr Kwok Wing-keung, Vice-Principal of Carmel Secondary School;
- * Mr Ronald Lu Yuen-cheung, Managing Director of Ronald Lu and Partners (HK) Ltd and member of the Board of Managers, Hong Kong International School;
- * Mrs Grace Tam Cheung Kit-ying, Principal of St Margaret's Girls' College;
- * Mr Yau Hon-kee, Principal of HKTA The Yuen Yuen Institute No 1 Secondary School; and
- * Deputy Secretary for Education and Manpower (Mr Joshua Law).

Ex-officio members appointed to the Authority are:

- * The Vice-Chancellor, President or other chief executive officer of the universities established in Hong Kong by enactment, or his representative;
- * The President of the Lingnan College, or his representative;
- * The Chairman of the Curriculum Development Council, or his representative;
- * The Executive Director of the Vocational Training Council, or his representative;
- * The Director of Education, or the Director's representative; and
- * The Secretary of the Hong Kong Examinations Authority.

The following serving members have been re-appointed:

(a) or another three years from August 1:

- * Mr Sheung Kwok-chu, Principal of Po Leung Kuk 984 Prevocational School; and

(b) for another two years from August 1:

- * Mrs Elim Lau, JP, Principal of Diocesan Girls' School

All the above appointments and re-appointments will take effect from August 1.

The Secretary for Education and Manpower paid tributes to the retiring Chairman, Mr Fang, for his leadership and his contributions to the Authority over the past six years.

"Under Mr Fang's leadership, the Authority has grown further in strength into a strong, effective and highly respected institution as it is today," said Mr Wong.

"In particular, he has given wise counsel on the Authority's management as well as enormous support to the Authority's endeavours to streamline its operations over the past few years."

Mr Wong also expressed appreciation to the retiring members for their dedication and service to HKEA. They are Mr Chan Bing-sing; Mr Chan Pui-tin; Mrs Yan Ho Siu-wan; Mrs Winnie Hung Lam Wing-yan; Mr Lee Pun-cho; Dr Lui Ming-wah, JP; Dr Pang King-chee; and Dr Tse Ka-kui.

Following is the new membership of HKEA with effect from August 1:

Chairman

Mr Joseph Chow Ming-kuen

Deputy-Chairman

Dr Tam Man-kwan

Appointed Members

Professor Raymond McDonald Anderson
Miss Eliza Chan Ching-har
Mr Lawrence Chan Hok-man
Mr Cheng Chi-leung
Mr Kwok But
Mr Kwok Wing-keung
Mrs Elim Lau
Mr Ronald Lu Yuen-cheung
Mr Sheung Kwok-chu
Mrs Grace Tam Cheung Kit-ying
Mr Yau Hon-kee
Deputy Secretary for Education and Manpower

Ex-officio Members

- * The Vice-Chancellor, President or other chief executive officer of the universities established in Hong Kong by enactment, or his representative;
- * The President of the Lingnan College, or his representative;
- * The Chairman of the Curriculum Development Council appointed by the Governor, or his representative;
- * The Executive Director of the Vocational Training Council, or his representative;
- * The Director of Education, or his representative; and
- * The Secretary of the Hong Kong Examinations Authority.

End

External trade figures for June

* * * * *

The external trade figures for June 1996 released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department showed that total exports and imports had decreased over those of the corresponding period last year.

The value of total exports (comprising re-exports and domestic exports) decreased by 5% over a year earlier to \$108.8 billion in June 1996.

The value of re-exports decreased by 2.2% to \$91.9 billion, while the value of domestic exports decreased by 18% to \$16.9 billion. Meanwhile, the value of imports decreased by 4% over a year earlier to \$123.8 billion in June 1996.

As the value of total exports in June 1996 was smaller than that of total imports, a visible trade deficit of \$15 billion, equivalent to 12% of the value of imports, was recorded. This was slightly larger than the corresponding deficit of \$14.4 billion, equivalent to 11% of the value of imports, in June 1995.

For the first half of 1996 as a whole, the value of total exports grew by 4.3% over the same period last year. The value of re-exports rose by 6.9%, while that of domestic exports decreased by 8.2%. The value of imports showed an increase of 3.2%.

In the first half of 1996, a visible trade deficit of \$83.8 billion, equivalent to 11% of the value of imports, was recorded. This was smaller than the deficit of \$88.1 billion, equivalent to 12% of the value of imports, recorded in the first half of 1995.

Commenting on the latest trade figures, a government spokesman said the trade situation was rather volatile in recent months.

"After notable increases in the first two months of 1996, export growth took an unexpected downturn in March, followed by a sharp pick-up in April, but was considerably weaker in both May and June.

"The deceleration in export growth in the first half of 1996 is to some extent anticipated, given the weaker demand in the United States, and the particularly robust export performance in the first half of last year thus resulting in a high base of comparison this year.

"But the slow-down in export growth in recent months was more abrupt than we have expected," the spokesman said.

"For the month of June in particular, the sluggish export performance could have been further compounded by a number of factors.

"These include the trade talk between China and the United States on protection of intellectual property rights under Special 301 in May, and possibly also the recurring issue over the renewal of China's MFN status in the United States, which might have contemplated US importers to hold up their orders from Hong Kong."

The trade situation would continue to be monitored closely, in particular to see if the situation would tend to stabilise in the coming months, the spokesman added.

A more detailed analysis of Hong Kong's external trade for June 1996, by commodity and country, will be released in mid-August.

Census & Statistics Department, Hong Kong
香港政府統計處

External Trade Figures for June 1996

一九九六年六月份對外貿易數字

(HK\$ Million)
百萬港元

MERCHANDISE TRADE VALUES for June 1996		一九九六年六月份商品貿易貨值			
Domestic Exports		港產品出口	16,903		
Re-exports		轉口	91,879		
Total Exports		整體出口	108,782		
Imports		進口	123,798		
Trade balance		貿易差額	-15,016		

COMPARATIVE FIGURES 比較數字				Change 變動	
		June 1996 一九九六年六月	June 1995 一九九五年六月	Value 貨值	% 百分比
Same month last year 去年同期					
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	港產品出口 (佔整體出口百分比)	16,903 (15.5%)	20,583 (18.0%)	-3,681	-17.9
Re-exports	轉口	91,879	93,913	-2,034	-2.2
Total Exports	整體出口	108,782	114,496	-5,715	-5.0
Imports	進口	123,798	128,939	-5,141	-4.0
Trade balance	貿易差額	-15,016	-14,442	-574	
Last month 上月		June 1996 一九九六年六月	May 1996 一九九六年五月		
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	港產品出口 (佔整體出口百分比)	16,903 (15.5%)	17,618 (14.9%)	-715	-4.1
Re-exports	轉口	91,879	100,290	-8,410	-8.4
Total Exports	整體出口	108,782	117,908	-9,126	-7.7
Imports	進口	123,798	129,924	-6,127	-4.7
Trade balance	貿易差額	-15,016	-12,017	-2,999	
Latest 3 months 最近三個月		Apr 96 to Jun 96 九六年四月至六月	Apr 95 to Jun 95 九五年四月至六月		
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	港產品出口 (佔整體出口百分比)	51,697 (15.1%)	57,485 (17.3%)	-5,788	-10.1
Re-exports	轉口	291,076	275,084	+15,992	+5.8
Total Exports	整體出口	342,773	332,569	+10,204	+3.1
Imports	進口	386,759	385,093	+1,666	+0.4
Trade balance	貿易差額	-43,986	-52,524	+8,538	
Calendar year to-date 本年首六個月		Jan-Jun 1996 九六年一月至六月	Jan-Jun 1995 九五年一月至六月		
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	港產品出口 (佔整體出口百分比)	99,261 (15.3%)	108,072 (17.3%)	-8,811	-8.2
Re-exports	轉口	550,798	515,152	+35,646	+6.9
Total Exports	整體出口	650,060	623,224	+26,835	+4.3
Imports	進口	733,819	711,356	+22,463	+3.2
Trade balance	貿易差額	-83,760	-88,132	+4,372	
Last 12 months 過去十二個月		Jul 95 to Jun 96 九五年七月至九六年六月	Jul 94 to Jun 95 九四年七月至九五年六月		
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	港產品出口 (佔整體出口百分比)	222,846 (16.3%)	231,421 (18.3%)	-8,575	-3.7
Re-exports	轉口	1,148,116	1,034,788	+113,328	+11.0
Total Exports	整體出口	1,370,962	1,266,209	+104,753	+8.3
Imports	進口	1,513,584	1,389,202	+124,382	+9.0
Trade balance	貿易差額	-142,622	-122,992	-19,629	

Note: Value of domestic exports and value of re-exports may not add up to the value of total exports due to rounding.

This sheet can be obtained free of charge from:
Trade Statistics Dissemination Section
Census and Statistics Department
Address: 19/F., Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road,
Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel 2582 4915 Fax: 2802 1101

註: 由於進位關係, 港產品出口貨值加上轉口貨值, 可能會與整體出口貨值略有出入。

本單張可以於下列地點免費索取:
香港政府統計處
貿易統計資料發布組
地址: 香港灣仔港灣道十二號灣仔政府大樓十九樓
電話: 2582 4915 傳真: 2802 1101

7/96

Concern over report of children fed with hydrogen peroxide

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The Social Welfare Department (SWD) expresses great concern over a newspaper report that children are fed with hydrogen peroxide.

A spokesman for the department said today (Friday) that the safety and best interests of the child should be the paramount concern.

"Any person who comes across such cases of children given hydrogen peroxide should call the SWD's hotline 2343 2255 or contact the nearest Family Services Centre for assistance," the spokesman said.

The Protection of Children and Juveniles Ordinance provides for the protection of health, development and welfare of a child.

Under the Ordinance, the Director of Social Welfare or the Police may invoke care and protection proceedings and apply to the Juvenile Court for a care or protection order to protect the safety and best interests of the child.

Under Section 27 of the Offences Against the Person Ordinance, any person who exposes a child to unnecessary suffering or injury to his health may be guilty of an offence.

End

Draft Tseung Kwan O Outline Zoning Plan approved

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The Governor-in-Council has approved the draft Tseung Kwan O Outline Zoning Plan, a spokesman for the Town Planning Board said today (Friday).

"The plan will establish a statutory land use framework to control development and redevelopment within the Tseung Kwan O new town.

"The plan will also help to facilitate development of the new town with adequate provision of open space, as well as recreational and community facilities," he said.

The approved plan (No S/TKO/4) is available for public inspection during normal office hours at :

- * Planning Department 16th floor, Murray Building Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong;
- * Sai Kung and Islands District Planning Office Suite 1207, Chinachem Golden Plaza 77 Mody Road, Tsim Sha Tsui East, Kowloon; and
- * Sai Kung District Office second floor, Sai Kung Government Offices Building 34 Chan Man Street, Sai Kung Town, New Territories.

Copies of the plan are on sale at the Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong, and the Kowloon Map Sales Office, ground floor, 382 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

End

Ground-breaking for Duplicate Tsing Yi South Bridge

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The \$1.338 billion Duplicate Tsing Yi South Bridge is one of the largest new town projects and the biggest bridge construction contract ever undertaken by the Territory Development Department.

This was stated by the Director of Territory Development, Mr Lee Shing-see, at the ground-breaking ceremony of the bridge today (Friday).

He said site preparatory works for the bridge, the fourth of its kind crossing the Rambler Channel, were progressing smoothly and construction of the bridge foundations and structures would commence soon.

When completed, it will have two separate bridge decks providing four additional traffic lanes. In addition, there will be new spaces to accommodate utility services.

Together with the existing south bridge, there will be a total of six traffic lanes with three in each direction. There will be connections to the Route 3 highway on the Kwai Chung side.

"This big increase in traffic capacity and improvement of the highway network will definitely relieve the heavy traffic flow now on the south bridge," said Mr Lee.

The whole bridge and the associated roadworks will be completed at the end of 1998, but arrangements will be made to first open two of the additional traffic lanes in mid-1998 to improve the traffic situation.

Mr Lee said the additional bridge link was a much desired transport infrastructure for people living on Tsing Yi Island.

"It is also an important transportation artery to support the port and other developments on the island.

"Its construction signifies the Government's continuous investment in infrastructural projects to improve the living of the people and to sustain and promote the economic growth of Hong Kong in the years to come," he said.

Mr Lee added that the department had also awarded a separate contract to provide noise mitigation measures for the residents likely to be affected by the new roads.

"Environmental impact has always been a key issue which we take into account during the planning and design of a project. Detailed environmental impact assessment is done for each project to safeguard any adverse effects to the environment and the residents.

"For this bridge project, we have conducted public consultations through the Kwai Tsing District Board and the local committees prior to implementation of the proposed mitigation measures.

"Necessary measures have also been taken to keep the disturbance during construction down to the minimum." Mr Lee said.

End

Tung Chung new town infrastructure works tenders invited

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The Territory Development Department is inviting tenders for site formation and construction of associated infrastructure works at the southern part of Tung Chung new towns.

Works involve formation of 26 hectares of land and construction of roads, footpath, cycle track, and two pedestrian and cycle bridges.

Stormwater and sewerage systems including three sewage pumping stations, river training, waterworks and landscape works will also be built.

Construction will start in November for completion in 42 months.

Tender forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Consulting Engineers, Messrs Mott MacDonald Hong Kong Limited, 12th floor, Sun Hung Kai Centre, 30 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Tenders must be clearly marked and addressed to the Chairman of the Central Tender Board. They must be placed in the Government Secretariat tender box in the lift lobby, lower ground floor, Central Government Offices (East Wing), Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong before noon on August 23.

Late tenders will not be accepted.

End

Tenders for Pak Kong treatment works laboratory invited

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The Water Supplies Department is inviting tenders for the construction of a two-storey laboratory building at the Pak Kong Treatment Works.

The project is to improve the water quality monitoring facilities. It is part of the Pak Kong Treatment Works and water transfer facilities, Stage II programme.

Construction will start in October for completion in about six months.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Water Supplies Department, Immigration Tower, 44th floor, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Tender offers will close at noon on August 16.

End

Tenders invited for Lei Yue Mun site formation work

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The Civil Engineering Department (CED) is inviting tenders for site formation works at Lei Yue Mun for future housing development.

The works will comprise the formation of 1.7 hectares of housing platforms at Lei Yue Mun, the construction of associated drainage and slope works, and the stabilization works of the slopes at Devil's Peak overseeing the housing platform.

Works will commence in October for completion in March 1998.

Upon completion, the site will be handed over to the Housing Department for the construction of public rental housing estates.

Forms of tender and further particulars can be obtained from the Chief Engineer, Development and Airport Division, Civil Engineering Office, CED, second floor, Civil Engineering Building, 101 Princess Margaret Road, Ho Man Tin, Kowloon.

Tender offers will close at noon on August 16.

End

Tenders for construction of Ap Lei Chau complex invited

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for the construction of a Urban Council complex in Ap Lei Chau.

Under the contract, a six-storey complex which comprises a market, a cooked food centre, a library, indoor bowling greens, squash courts and an indoor games hall, will be built.

The project will start in October for completion in May 1998.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Architectural Services Department, 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Tender offers will close at noon on August 16.

End

Tenders invited for slope upgrading work

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The Civil Engineering Department is inviting tenders for upgrading works of 30 slopes and retaining walls throughout the territory under its accelerated landslip preventive measures (LPM) programme.

The works are expected to commence in November for completion in 24 months' time.

Chief Geotechnical Engineer of the department's Geotechnical Engineering Office, Mr Allan Watkins, said the contract would be the ninth to be offered under the 5-year accelerated LPM Programme which commenced in April last year.

"A total of six contracts which involve the upgrading of about 140 slopes and retaining walls will be let this year," he said.

"Under the accelerated LPM programme, upgrading works to government-owned man-made slopes in the 1977 Slope Catalogue will be speeded up.

"Studies of private slopes and retaining walls have also been accelerated considerably and over 300 slopes will be studied in the current fiscal year.

"A statutory notice will be served by the Buildings Department requiring owners to carry out upgrading works if a slope or a retaining wall is identified by the studies as not meeting the required standards."

Tender forms for the slope upgrading works contract and further particulars can be obtained from the office of Chief Geotechnical Engineer/Works, Geotechnical Engineering Office, LG1 floor, Civil Engineering Building, 101, Princess Margaret Road, Kowloon.

Tender offers will close at noon on August 23.

End

1,439 sites checked for safety

* * * * *

The Labour Department's special task force comprising 10 factory inspectors checked another 85 sites in the fifth week of the territory-wide special industrial safety operation. The total number of sites inspected in the past five weeks reached 1,439.

A total of 33 summonses will be issued to building contractors for breaching industrial safety laws as a result of the latest operation.

This brought the number of summonses to be issued under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance to 452 up to yesterday (Thursday).

The breaches detected over the fifth week related mainly to failing to provide suitable working platforms or scaffolds; failing to provide proper fencing of dangerous places; failing to ensure the use of personal protective equipment by workers and failing to provide adequate safety measures in the use of lifting appliances. These were similar to the first four weeks' findings.

End

High API recorded for industrial area

* * * * *

Air pollution index (API) for industrial area, including Kwun Tong, Kwai Tsing and Tsuen Wan districts, has reached 118 today (Friday). High indices were also recorded in the urban and new development areas, with API readings at 90 and 94 respectively.

"Today's poor air quality is due to ozone, which is not directly emitted from pollution sources. Ozone is caused by the reaction of air pollutants in the atmosphere and under sunlight.

"Nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons, which are mostly emitted by motor vehicles, are the main pollutants involved," acting Principal Environmental Protection Officer, Mr Pang Sik-wing, said.

"The very calm air circulatory conditions have given sufficient time for the chemicals in the atmosphere to form ozone.

"When the API exceeds 100, people suffering from asthma, lung or heart illnesses are advised to reduce physical exertion and laborious outdoor activities. The current level should have little effect on a normal person."

The API forecast for the territory tomorrow is 75 for the urban area, 80 for the industrial area and 70 for the new development area.

Members of the public can check the API readings on 2827 8541.

End

List of environmental reports released

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The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (Friday), released a list of environmental impact assessment (EIA) reports of major development projects completed between April and June this year as well as those which will be completed in the coming 12 months.

A complete list of all ongoing EIAs is available for public inspection at the Environmental Resource Centre at 221, Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Following is a list of major EIA reports completed between April and June 1996 :

1. Reclamation and Servicing of Tuen Mun Area 38 for special Industries - "Improvement to Roads and Junctions within Tuen Mun EIA" (Territory Development Department)
2. Supplementary EIA for the Development and Management of South East New Territories Landfills (Environmental Protection Department)
3. Supplementary EIA for Dredging of Anchorage Area for Stonecutters Island Naval Base (Civil Engineering Department)

Major EIAs that are likely to be completed in the next 12 months include :

1. Green Island Cement Manufacturing and Concrete Batching Area 17, Southwest Tsing Yi (Green Island Cement Co. Ltd.)
2. Main Drainage Channel for Fanling, Sheung Shui and Hinterland (Civil Engineering Department)
3. Main Drainage Channels for Ngau Tam Mei, Yuen Long and Kam Tin (Territory Development Department)
4. Route 16 : From West Kowloon to Sha Tin (Highways Department)
5. Sham Tseng Link Feasibility Study (Highways Department)
6. Sand Extraction and Backfilling of Eastern Waters Marine Borrow Areas (Civil Engineering Department)
7. Central Reclamation, Phase III (Territory Development Department)
8. Sha Lo Tung Revised Development Supplementary EIA (Sha Lo Tung Development Co., Ltd)
9. Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme Stage I, Implementation Stage EIA (Drainage Services Department)
10. KCR Western Corridor Railway Project (Final EIA) (Kowloon Canton Railway Corporation)
11. MTR Tseung Kwan O & Quarry Extensions (Mass Transit Railway Corporation)
12. KCR Hung Hom Extension cum Ma On Sha Rail Link (Highways Department)
13. Aviation Fuel Pipeline (Stage 1 Study) (Airport Authority)
14. Central / Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link (Highways Department)
15. Backfilling of Marine Borrow Area at East Tung Lung Chau (Civil Engineering Department)

16. Wan Chai East and North Point Sewerage (Drainage Services Department)
17. Tsuen Wan Bay Further Reclamation (Territory Development Department)
18. Feasibility Study for Castle Peak Road Improvement between Ka Loon Tsuen and Tsuen Wan (Highways Department)
19. Road D15 Linking Lok Shun Path and Tai Po Road (Territory Development Department)
20. Proposed 2nd 132 kV Submarine Cable Link to Shekou China (China Light & Power Co. Ltd)
21. Kowloon Point Development Feasibility Study (Territory Development Department)
22. Hiram's Highway - Improvement between Nam Wai and Ho Chung and Upgrading Local Access Road (Highways Department)
23. Engineering Works (Roads & Drains) - Aldrich Bay Reclamation (Highways Department)
24. Kennedy Road Improvement and Queen's Lines Link (Highways Department)
25. Four Potential Housing Development Sites - Chai Wan, Sham Tseng, Canton Road, and Hollywood Road. (Housing Branch)
26. Aviation Fuel Pipeline (Stage 2 Study) (Airport Authority)
27. EIA for Site Formation for Packages 1 & 2 in Reserve Zone, Tin Shui Wai (Territory Development Department)
28. San Tin Port Back-up Development Feasibility Study (Planning Department)
29. River Trade Terminal at Tuen Mun Area 38 Environmental Impact Assessment Study (River Trade Terminal Co. Ltd.)

30. KCRC Western Corridor Railway Project (Initial EIA) (Kowloon Canton Railway Corporation)
31. Tai Po Development - Formation and Servicing of Area 12 (Part) and 39 Pak Shek Kok, Phase 1 (Territory Development Department)

End

Hong Kong sharpshooters are army's best

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In their final year of competition, locally enlisted Chinese soldiers of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps (HKMSC) have won the reputation for the territory by becoming the best pistol shots in the British Army.

They beat every other unit to take the title at the prestigious annual British Regular Army Skill at Arms Meeting, held at the famous Bisley Ranges in England. The HKMSC will disband later this year.

The pistol team came home as winners of the Pistol Team Match while the HKMSC's second team came third in the Army Pistol Match (Other Arms and Services) and was awarded the Duke of Connaught Cup.

It was almost a clean sweep for the Hong Kong soldiers, who were competing against the best shots in the British Army. After nine days of hard-fought and intense competition, the six-man shooting team emerged as winners of the Rifle Match and the Light Support Weapon Match in the Army Rifle Association Non-Central Service Weapons Competition (Other Arms and Services) and were presented with the Artillery Cup and the Hopton Cup. The results saw the team crowned as winners of the Minor Unit Championship and the award of the King Edward VII Cup and Army Rifle Association Shield.

The HKMSC's success at Bisley comes only weeks after the unit won the annual Tickle Trophy Competition, an event in which every unit in the Army must compete by shooting on their own ranges, wherever they are based in the world. The results are then compared centrally in Britain before a winner is announced - with victory this year going to the HKMSC.

End

Fresh water cut in Chai Wan

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The fresh water supply to some premises in Chai Wan will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Monday (July 29) to 6 am the following day for waste detection work on watermains.

The suspension will affect Yue Wan Estate, Chai Wan Indoor Games Hall, no. 345 Chai Wan Road and Tsui Fuk House of Tsui Wan Estate.

End

Fresh water cut in Sai Kung

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The fresh water supply to all premises along Hiram's Highway in Sai Kung from Habitat to Pak Kong Road will be temporarily suspended from 10 pm on Monday (July 29) to 6 am the following day to allow alteration work on watermains.

The suspension will affect the Habitat, Mang Kung Wo Road, Tai Chung Hau Road, Hing Keng Shek Road, Kei Pik Shan, Fung On Village, Pak Kong Old Village, Pak Kong Road, Sai Kung Farm, Che Keng Tuk, Tsiu Hang Village, Ma Lam Wat, Ta Ho Tun Sheung, Ha Wai and Wo Lei Tau.

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	2,112	0930	-153
Closing balance in the account	2,251	1000	-153
Change attributable to :		1100	-158
Money market activity	-151	1200	-152
LAF today	+290	1500	-152
		1600	-151

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 123.9 *-0.1* 26.7.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.04	2 years	2805	6.30	100.11	6.32
1 month	5.07	3 years	3907	6.80	100.31	6.80
3 months	5.23	5 years	5106	7.23	99.86	7.39
6 months	5.43	7 years	7305	7.60	100.11	7.72
12 months	5.83	5 years	M502	7.30	99.51	7.57

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$10,706 million

Closed July 26, 1996

End