



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Hong Kong people should know more about Basic Law

People in Hong Kong should acquaint themselves with the Basic Law as its provisions have a direct bearing to their way of life after 1997, the Convenor of the Publicity Sub-committee of the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education, Mr Peter Lam, said today (Saturday).

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Basic Law roving exhibitions organised by the Committee, Mr Lam said the Basic Law laid down the principles for the operation of the future Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

"The Basic Law includes a preamble, 160 articles and three annexes and prescribes the relationship between the central authorities and the HKSAR as well as the HKSAR's political, social, economic and cultural systems and policies.

"As the legal basis of the future HKSAR, the Basic Law is analogous to our mini-constitution," he said.

Mr Lam said one of the work emphases of the Committee this year was the promotion of the Basic Law.

A series of publicity programmes to arouse people's interest in understanding more about the Basic Law had been planned, of which the roving exhibitions would be the curtain-raisers, he said.

"The exhibitions will tour around Hong Kong in 18 locations including large shopping complexes, housing estate shopping centres as well as government office buildings in the next three months.

"Using colourful graphics and cartoons, the exhibitions aim to give people a general understanding of the provisions of the Basic Law in a direct and interesting way," Mr Lam said.

To enable the message to reach a wider cross-section of the community, a teleline service on the Basic Law and a number of civic education-related subjects will also be launched today.

"With the generous support of the Hong Kong Telecom, the public can dial the number 187 8816 to listen to a total of four stories on the Basic Law, good citizenship and equal opportunities free of charge," he said.

Mr Lam said work on other publicity programmes to promote the Basic Law was in full swing, adding that a TV publicity film and a radio programme would be in place later in the year.

"I hope that this year's promotional efforts by the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education can serve as a catalyst to stimulate people's awareness of the importance of the Basic Law to their future lives in the HKSAR," Mr Lam said.

"While the promotional programme introduces the essentials of the Basic Law, the public should take the initiative to understand more by visiting the Civic Education Resource Centre which has a handsome collection of reference material on a wide range of civic education subjects."

End

Clean and green gift design competition a success

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One of the major activities organised under this year's Clean and Green Scheme - the gift design competition - has been a success.

This was stated by the District Governor of Lions Clubs International District 303, Mr Phileas Fok, when speaking at the contest's prize presentation ceremony this (Saturday) morning.

He said many participants not only took part in the physical work of keeping the countryside clean and green, but also joined the competition with the objective to promote proper use of resources and litter reduction.

"They had used waste material to design gift which could help members of the public to gain a better understanding on the importance of reducing litter and upkeeping a green countryside," said Mr Fok, thanking winners for their contribution to environmental protection.

The champion of the contest's youth section went to Ma Chi-wing, while Law Wing-yan and Wong Ka-man were first and second runners-up respectively.

In the children's section, Wong Yin-ping took top honours with Law Yuen-ting and Wong Hung-hung came second and third respectively.

The winning designs will be displayed at country park visitor centres and some of them may be used for souvenir production in the future.

Turning to the Clean and Green Scheme, Mr Fok said it had become increasingly popular among young people. A total of 9,700 youngsters had taken part in this year's scheme.

The Scheme is an educational and publicity programme organised by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) to enhance public awareness of keeping country parks clean and green.

Apart from the gift design competition, other activities organised between last December and April included the cleaning of country parks, guided tours and quizzes.

Also present at today's presentation ceremony was AFD assistant director, Mr Frank Lau.

End

Floating holiday reminder

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The Labour Department today (Saturday) reminded employers that the second floating holiday of this year falls on August 26, the last Monday of the month.

Under the Employment Ordinance, all employees should be granted their second floating holiday on this date if the employer has not fixed a date for it or if he has not requested it to be added to his paid annual leave.

In addition, an employee is entitled to be paid for that holiday if he has worked for his employer continuously for three months or longer before the holiday.

Holiday pay should be equivalent to an employee's earnings on a full working day and should include basic wages as well as allowances that can be expressed in money terms such as meals and cost of living allowances.

Where the earnings vary from day to day, holiday pay should be the average daily earnings during every complete wage period, which could be between 28 and 31 days, preceding the holiday.

If an employee is required to work on a statutory holiday, he must be given an alternative day off within 60 days before or after that day.

Enquiries about statutory holidays can be made at the Labour Department's General Enquiry Telephone Service on 2717 1771.

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	2,160	09:30	-200
Closing balance in the account	1,655	10:00	-200
Change attributable to:		11:00	-200
Money market activity	- 200	11:30	-200
LAF today	- 305		

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 123.9 **+0.0* 17.8.96

End

Redevelopment projects to help ease prison over-crowding

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Construction work is underway on two major projects which will provide some relief in the next few years to chronic overcrowding in Hong Kong's penal institutions.

The redevelopment at Stanley Prison area is being carried out in two phases at a total cost of around \$1.15 billion and will provide accommodation for an additional 775 prisoners.

Overcrowding is serious in Stanley Prison, which was built in the 1930s, where the current prison population is 2,004 - about 27 per cent over the certified prison accommodation of 1,575.

A Correctional Services Department spokesman said it had long been considered essential that additional prison accommodation in Stanley Prison area should be provided to reduce the current shortfall.

"We have carried out minor redevelopment and upgrading works in other penal institutions to increase their capacity as far as possible. However, due to various constraints, mainly space limitations, it is neither possible nor cost-effective to carry out large-scale redevelopment works in other penal institutions.

"When the entire project is completed we will provide a medium security accommodation for 624 prisoners and additional accommodation for 151 category A prisoners, and this will allow us to alleviate the overcrowding in other prisons by redistributing inmates among various institutions," he said.

Under Phase One of the project, estimated to cost \$204.5 million, an annex will be built at the Tung Tau Correctional Institution, which is a medium security prison next to Stanley Prison, to provide additional accommodation for 200 prisoners.

The existing dog kennels have been reprovisioned earlier this year to make way for this project which is scheduled for completion in September next year.

The existing hospital block inside Stanley Prison will also be reprovisioned to make way for the construction of a self-contained unit for category A prisoners.

This work is programmed to be completed in early 1998 as will refurbishment and alteration works to the main gate lodge of Stanley Prison to improve existing visiting access, reception and security facilities.

The football pitch adjacent to Stanley Prison is to be reprovisioned to make way for the construction of a new medium security prison. This work and site formation and preparatory works for the construction of departmental quarters and barracks accommodation are scheduled to be finished in early 1997.

Phase Two, estimated to cost \$946.1 million, of the project, includes the construction of a self-contained unit for 256 category A prisoners, which is expected to be completed in early 1999, as will the new medium security prison for 424 prisoners.

Linking blocks for six existing cell blocks will also be built to upgrade security and improve operational efficiency. This work, scheduled to be finished in early 2000, will provide communal facilities including dining/day rooms with associated staff duty rooms, showers and stores.

Construction work on new staff quarters is scheduled to be completed in early 1999 and will provide accommodation for over 700 junior personnel and officers and their families.

The sewers of existing buildings at Stanley Prison and the new buildings under the project will be connected to the Stanley main sewers and treatment plant.

Meanwhile, the conversion of the Chi Ma Wan (Lower) Detention Centre into a drug addiction treatment centre (DATC) for women, at an estimated cost of nearly \$15 million, will provide much-needed relief to the severe over-crowded situation in women penal institutions.

The Tai Lam Centre for Women which currently holds 594 prisoners is 126 per cent above its certified accommodation, while the Chi Ma Wan Correctional Institution with 665 inmates is 83 per cent above its certified accommodation and Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution with 251 prisoners is 57 per cent above its occupancy rate.

Work on the project at Chi Ma Wan Lower started at the beginning of this year and is scheduled to be completed at the end of this year. It is expected to become operational in early 1997 and will provide accommodation for 250 inmates.

Various facilities in the former detention centre have been renovated and upgraded to provide a vocational training/education complex, three workshops, improved kitchen facilities, a sick bay and clinic, shower rooms and changing space.

"Among the female prison population, about 14 per cent are drug addicts and the number of such prisoners has been on the increase in recent years.

"We have noticed that there is a daily average of about 20 to 40 female offenders on remand in DATCs for assessment of their suitability for detention there.

"The increasing number of female offenders in this category has further stretched the existing staff resources and facilities at DATCs of Tai Lam Centre for Women and Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution," said the spokesman.

Chi Ma Wan Lower Detention Centre was originally a football field and was converted into a detention for Vietnamese migrants since 1978. It comprises 10 dormitories which will be converted into prison accommodation, workshops and other essential facilities required of a DATC.

"The open ground is ideal for the physical training of female drug addicts," the spokesman said.

End

Schools urged to help immigrant children from China

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Schools are encouraged to give appropriate assistance to pupils immigrated from China to help them overcome transient difficulties they may encounter.

Principal Education Officer (Services), Mr Chong Kwok-kit, said: "Given time and appropriate help, most of the difficulties faced by these children, such as speaking Cantonese dialect, understanding English or adjusting to the environment, can be overcome.

"Schools should be sensitive to their needs and potential problems before they become aggravated. Teachers should also be aware of the factors leading to learning or adjustment difficulties and provide appropriate assistance."

Support services including school guidance and counselling services, and remedial teaching are already available in schools to help these pupils, he said.

"School heads are also requested to inform them about induction and an extension programme on remedial teaching of English designed for new immigrant children from China.

"The courses are run by the Education Department through voluntary organisations which aim at helping them adapt to the local and school environment," said Mr Chong.

To help pupils experiencing more serious learning difficulties to cope with the curriculum, the department's Services Division has organised resource classes, peripatetic teaching service, resource teaching centres and adjustment programmes.

Other support/assessment services provided by the division include psychological services, audiological services, services for pupils with visual problems and speech therapy services.

School heads are urged to make use of these services to help immigrant pupils overcome learning difficulties and adjustment problems.

They should also give parents of these children information on the services available so that they can seek appropriate support/assessment services whenever necessary.

Schools are encouraged to enlist parents' co-operation and support and inform them of what they are doing or trying to do for their children, Mr Chong said.

End

Office space for AIDS work application invited

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The Department of Health is inviting non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working on AIDS to apply for the use of office space in the Red Ribbon Centre scheduled to open in the third quarter of this year.

The Centre is a new project developed to promote community participation in AIDS education and research, to facilitate the development of research and quality education programmes on HIV/AIDS, and to provide an avenue to fight against the disease.

NGOs which organise activities or conduct programmes aiming at achieving either of the above objectives can submit their applications to the AIDS Unit of the Department of Health before September 16.

Applications will be judged mainly by the nature and scale of the activities, the applicants' experience in organising activities, and their source of funding.

Interested parties can obtain a copy of the guide to the application for use of office space in Red Ribbon Centre from the AIDS unit for further information. Enquiries can be made on 2780 8622.

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DGT to attend APEC Senior Officials Meeting in Davao

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The Director-General of Trade, Mr Alan Lai, will depart for Davao, the Philippines, tomorrow (Monday) to attend this year's third senior officials meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to be held between August 21 and 23 to review progress in implementing the Osaka action agenda on free trade and investment.

Mr Lai will lead a Hong Kong delegation comprising officials from the Trade and Industry Branch, the Financial Services Branch, the Industry Department, the Department of Health and the Trade Department.

The Osaka action agenda sets a goal for free trade and investment in the Asia Pacific region by 2010-2020 for industrialised and developing economies respectively.

To implement this agenda, all 18 APEC member economies submitted their draft individual action plans in this year's second senior officials meeting held in Cebu in May.

The third meeting will further review these individual action plans and informal consultations will be conducted in Davao with a view to improving them.

The meeting will also review progress about the preparation for the collective action plans by member economies and will consider ways to strengthen economic and technical co-operation among them.

The third senior officials meeting will be preceded by a series of meetings including those of the Expert Group on Mutual Recognition Arrangements on food products, the Sub-committee on Standards and Conformance, the Economic Committee, and the Committee on Trade and Investment. These various APEC forums will report to the senior officials meeting.

APEC will hold the fourth senior officials meeting in October before this year's ministerial meeting and economic leaders meeting in November.

Member economies of APEC are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and the United States.

End

Bulletin board system on careers information be introduced

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The Labour Department's Careers Advisory Service (CAS) would introduce a new service - Careers Info Express Bulletin Board System (BBS) - tomorrow (Monday) to facilitate members of the public to gain easy access to a wide collection of careers information.

"Through computers equipped with modems, the public may visit the BBS free of charge by simply dialling either 2573 6874 or 2838 9614," acting Senior Labour Officer (Careers Advisory Service), Mr Leung Chi-kin, said today (Sunday).

"They can download over 30 titles of careers pamphlets and over 200 titles of job sheets produced by the CAS. Also, they can have access to the catalogues of various reference materials kept by the Careers Information Centres."

These include audio-visual materials and other publications namely reference books, company/government reports, manpower survey reports as well as professional bodies publications.

"By reading the 'announcement', users can keep abreast of the latest careers activities organised by the CAS. Moreover careers teachers can share their views and experience on careers guidance through a 'Forum' area," said Mr Leung.

The Careers Info Express will be opened from 9 am to 5.30 pm on weekdays, from 9 am to noon on Saturdays and closed on public holidays.

CAS is dedicated to promote career education through the provision of careers information to facilitate young people and job-seekers in choosing a career best suited to their talents, interests and abilities. It also provides careers teacher with information back-up in conducting their careers guidance duties.

Currently, there are two careers information centres operated by CAS: one on 16th floor, Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, and the other on second floor, Mongkok Government Offices, 30 Luen Wan Street, Mong Kok.

All members of the public are welcome to visit either one of the two centres which are equipped with a reference library consisting of publications on careers and training opportunities, an audio-visual unit and an enquiry service on careers information.

End

Reservoir fishing season to begin next month

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Anglers wishing to indulge their hobby in local reservoirs during the coming fishing season may apply for a licence from the Water Supplies Department, starting tomorrow (Monday), before the next season begins on September 1.

Those who wish to apply can call at the customer enquiry centre on the first floor of Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai.

Applications can also be made at the ground floor office of the department's mainland depot at the junction of Sai Yee Street and Argyle Street in Mong Kok, customer enquiry centres on the second floor of Ngau Tau Kok Government Offices at 21, On Wah Street, and on the ground floor of Perfect Mount Gardens in Po Man Street, Shau Kei Wan.

Applicants will be required to produce their identity cards and pay a licence fee of \$24. A licence would normally be issued immediately upon submission of the application.

Applications can also be made by post to the department's headquarters at Immigration Tower, giving the applicant's name, address, photocopy of his identity card, together with a crossed cheque for \$24 payable to the Hong Kong Government.

A licence will then be sent to the applicant by ordinary mail. It will not be issued to people under the age of 13.

Anglers have to observe certain rules while fishing in reservoirs. They should not use a net or tools other than rod and line.

Explosives and toxic substances are prohibited. The use of a boat, dinghy or raft is also banned.

End

Pavilion at Siu Sai Wan morning walk trail opens today

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Morning walkers on the hill behind Fullview Garden in Siu Sai Wan will be able to take a rest and enjoy a panorama view of Lei Yue Mun and Tseung Kwan O with the opening of a pavilion today (Sunday).

As part of the district-based Urban Environmental Improvement (UEI) scheme under the Home Affairs Department (HAD), work on this \$290,000 project began in January and was completed in March.

HAD has been implementing UEI projects under the scheme to improve the living environment in urban areas since 1994. These included improvement works for local roads and paths, amenity planting and other environmental projects identified and endorsed by the district boards.

A total of 16 UEI projects costing over \$5.3 million have been undertaken by HAD's Urban Works Section in 1995-96. Of these, 10 projects costing about \$2.5 million were carried out in the Eastern district.

The acting Director of Home Affairs, Mr Lee Lap-sun, and the Eastern District Board Chairman, Mr Chan Bing-woon officiated at the opening ceremony this morning.

End

Fresh water cut in Kwai Chung

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Kwai Chung will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (August 21) to 6 am the following day for waste detection work on watermains.

The suspension will affect all premises in Lai Yiu Estate and Tsui Yiu Court.

End

Flushing water cut on Tsing Yi Island

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The flushing water supply to all premises on Tsing Yi Island will be temporarily suspended from 9 pm on Wednesday (August 21) to 8 am the following day for maintenance work on watermains.

End

Slope maintenance exhibition opens in Tsim Sha Shui

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The first of a series of slope maintenance exhibition begins today (Sunday) at the China Hong Kong City in Tsim Sha Tsui.

Organised by the Civil Engineering Department, the display aims at promoting public awareness of the importance of slope maintenance.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Director of Civil Engineering, Mr Bernard Lam, said regular maintenance was essential for ensuring the safety of slopes and retaining walls.

"Since 1992, the Civil Engineering Department started a series of promotional and educational activities to promulgate slope safety and to alert owners of their responsibility to carry out regular maintenance of slopes within their property," he said.

These included a 24-hour hotline on slope safety, leaflets "keep your slopes safe" and the layman's guide to slope maintenance, seminars and educational videos .

Today's exhibition features various aspect of proper slope maintenance through display of colourful illustrations and photographs.

In addition, a presentation by the Buildings Department on what action to take when a dangerous hillside order is posted is also on display.

During the opening ceremony, colourful balloons carrying the slogan "keep your slopes safe" and the slope maintenance hotline 2762 5165, were distributed to children. They are also encouraged to participate in games stalls at the venue.

A multimedia information kiosk has been set up to give visitors a hands-on experience on the slope maintenance hotline service.

The exhibition will be open daily between 10 am and 9 pm until August 20 (Tuesday) at the atrium, upper ground level of the China Hong Kong City .

Also officiating at today's opening ceremony were the Principal Government Geotechnical Engineer, Dr Andrew Malone, District Officer of Yau Tsim Mong, Mr Barton Ireland, and other guests.

Similar exhibitions will be mounted at Heng Fa Chuen between September 16 and 22, Luk Yeung Sun Chuen between November 11 and 17 and Cheung Fat Estate between December 2 and 8.

End