



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
GARDEN ROAD, 5th-8th FLOORS, MURRAY BUILDING,
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Tuesday, March 11, 1997

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/Sir Robert



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ISSUED WEEKLY ON THURSDAY
BY THE INFORMATION SERVICES UNIT
OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG

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Transcript of FS at his office

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Following is the remarks by the Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, at the photo session to unveil the cover of the 1997/98 Budget Speech at his office this afternoon (Tuesday):

Financial Secretary: I have chosen a very rich colour of gold, this symbolises my own confidence in the transition. This sense of glory, it's like a rising sun heralding a new era in Hong Kong. Green is like itself growth and calmness and serenity, set against a golden background I think it conveys my own feeling about the coming year and the title, set in green, as you know, is called "Continuity in a time of Change". I shall say a bit more about the title later on if you're going to attend the celebration of the second year anniversary of the Industrial and Technology Centre later on in Kowloon and I will say a bit more about the title.

Question: Why no film title this year?

Financial Secretary: I am sorry disappointing you. I think since I've been financial secretary I try to avoid film title any more lest controversy.

End

Transcript of FS at technology centre

* * * * *

Following is the remarks by the Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, at the media session at the 2nd Anniversary of the Hong Kong Industrial Technology Centre today (Tuesday):

Question: Mr Tsang, how confident are you to get the legislators to approve your Budget?

Financial Secretary: Well, I am pretty confident because we had work very hard to do our best to reflect the wishes of Legislative Council members. You know I have met them on several occasions. On separate chances as well, one occasion we have a series of meetings on expenditure. We have another series of meetings on revenue. My colleagues and I have studied very carefully those proposals and tried to reflect as best we can in the Budget. I'm sure they will see that many of their recommendations we'll be making originating in that. So I am pretty confident they will support it. Well, thank you very much.

End

Secondment of senior government officials to CE's Office

* * * * *

The Government announced today (Tuesday) that Mr Michael Suen, Secretary for Home Affairs, and Mrs Irene Yau, Director of Information Services, will be seconded to the Chief Executive (designate)'s Private Office with effect from March 12, 1997.

The Hong Kong Government is committed to provide all necessary assistance and support to the Chief Executive (designate). In line with this commitment and in response to a request by the Chief Executive (designate), the Government has agreed to the secondment of Mr Suen and Mrs Yau.

Whilst on secondment, Mr Suen will assist the Chief Executive (designate) in his preparation for the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and its Government.

Mrs Yau is due to retire from the Civil Service in April and has agreed to postpone her retirement till the Handover at the end of June. She will be responsible for all information, publicity and public relations matters of the Chief Executive (designate)'s Office. A small team of information officers will be seconded to assist her.

Mrs Stella Hung, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs will act in Mr Suen's place as the Secretary for Home Affairs and Mr Thomas Chan will take over from Mrs Yau as Director of Information Services, both with effect from March 12, 1997.

End

39th meeting of JLG

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The thirty-ninth meeting of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group on Hong Kong will take place in London on March 18, 20 and 21.

The British team will be led by the Senior Representative, Mr Hugh Davies.

The other members of the British team will be Mr Nicholas Ng, Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, Hong Kong Government; Mr Alan Paul, Counsellor, Office of the British Senior Representative, Sino-British Joint Liaison Group; Mr Robert Peirce, Political Advisor, Hong Kong Government; and Mr Sherard Cowper-Coles, Head of Hong Kong Department in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

End

New Chairman for the Transport Advisory Committee

* * * * *

The Governor has appointed Dr Cheng Hon-kwan as Chairman of the Transport Advisory Committee for two years from April 1, 1997. The term of appointment of Dr Raymond Ho, Chairman of the TAC, expires on March 31, 1997.

Dr Cheng is a registered structural engineer by profession. He has a long and distinguished record of public service and is currently serving on a number of Government boards and committees, including the Land and Building Advisory Committee and the Airport Consultative Committee.

Commenting on the appointment, the Secretary for Transport, Mr Gordon Siu said: "The Government is delighted that Dr Cheng has accepted the appointment. With Dr Cheng's professional background and experience in public service, I am confident that he will provide new impetus to the work of the Transport Advisory Committee."

Mr Siu also paid tribute to Dr Raymond Ho for his contribution to the TAC.

Mr Siu said: "Under Dr Ho's leadership, the Committee has played a vital role in the development of more and better quality public transport services in Hong Kong and in further improving the efficiency of our road infrastructure."

"Dr Ho's professional knowledge and leadership have contributed significantly to the work of the Transport Advisory Committee. His efforts in making the Committee more open and transparent are recognised and appreciated by members of the community. My fellow members on the Committee will miss him."

End

Budget summary broadcast on TV and radio

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Television and radio stations will broadcast the 1997-98 budget summary by the Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, tomorrow (Wednesday).

Following is the timetable for the broadcast:

<u>Station</u>	<u>Time (March 12)</u>
TVB Jade	5.40 pm
TVB Pearl	7.10 pm
ATV Home	5.50 pm
ATV World	6.55 pm
Cable TV News Channel 1	10 pm
RTHK Radio 1 (Chinese)	5.30 pm
RTHK Radio 2 (Chinese)	6.15 pm
RTHK Radio 3 (English)	7 pm
Commercial Radio 1 (Chinese)	5 pm (after main news)
Commercial Radio 2 (Chinese)	6 pm (after main news)
Commercial Radio (English)	5 pm (after main news)
Metro News (English)	5.30 pm

End

Budget Speech on Internet

* * * * *

The full text of the 1997-98 Budget Speech to be delivered by the Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, in the Legislative Council tomorrow (Wednesday), will be available to Internet users via the Hong Kong Government Home Page at website <http://www.info.gov.hk> after his delivery of the speech.

Copies of the Budget Speech will also be available for collection by members of the public from the Publishing Sub-division of the Government Information Services from 10.30 am and from all district offices from 4 pm on March 13 (Thursday).

A budget guide highlighting the major points of the 1997-98 budget and how they affect the average Hong Kong citizen will be distributed free to the public from 4.30 pm tomorrow. A total of 300,000 copies will be issued.

The easy-to-read leaflet, giving budget facts and figures at a glance, will be available immediately after the Financial Secretary delivers his speech at 4.30 pm at:

- * Mass Transit Railway stations in Central, Causeway Bay, Mong Kok, Wong Tai Sin, Kwun Tong, Tsim Sha Tsui and Tsuen Wan;
- * Kowloon Hung Hom, Kowloon Tong and Sha Tin stations of the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation;

and from 4.30 pm to 7 pm at:

- * the Information Services Department Publishing Sub-Division, 17th floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai;
- * the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Lower Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway;
- * all district offices, and

* shopping centres of 47 housing estates:

Hong Kong Island

Wan Tsui
Hing Tung
Lei Tung
Siu Sai Wan
Wah Fu

Kowloon

On Kay	Fung Tak
Kai Yip	Lok Fu
Lok Wah (North)	Wong Tai Sin
Shun Lee	Oi Man
Tak Tin	Lai Kok
Tsui Ping (South)	Lei Cheng Uk
Choi Wan	Shek Kip Mei
Chuk Yuen (South)	Pak Tin

New Territories

Sha Kok	Shek Lei (I)
Mei Lam	Tai Wo Hau
Hin Keng	Shek Wai Kok
Wo Che	Hau Tak
Choi Yuen	Po Lam
Fu Shin	Yau Oi
Heng On	Leung King
Kwong Yuen	Butterfly
Tai Wo	Siu Hong
Wah Ming	Shan King
Cheung Fat	Tai Hing
Cheung Hong	Long Ping
Lai Yiu	Tin Shui

End

On-line video may require licence to operate

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Responding to press reports that a consortium of companies was planning to establish an "on-line video rental business", the Deputy Secretary for Broadcasting, Culture and Sport, Mrs Rita Lau, said that any service which fell within the meaning of "broadcasting" in the Television Ordinance would require an appropriate licence.

She pointed out that once the Television (Amendment) Bill was enacted and came into force, the term "broadcasting" would include the provision of television programmes, including films, made available to two or more homes or the general public by means of point-to-point terrestrial telecommunication on payment of a subscription.

As to whether this would include the service mentioned in recent press reports, Mrs Lau said: "On the basis of the reports, I believe that either a programme service licence or a subscription television licence would be required. I have sought further information to confirm whether this is so."

The Television (Amendment) Bill, which will create a new category of programme service licence for point-to-point transmissions of television programmes, is due to have its second reading in the Legislative Council on March 19.

End

Demolition contractor fined over mishap

* * * * *

A registered contractor and a demolition work supervisor have recently been convicted and fined \$27,000 and \$30,000 respectively for causing death and injury while carrying out demolition at a San Po Kong work site in November 1995.

During the incident, a bus passenger was killed and another injured when a piece of brick wall fell from a demolition site at No.1 Tai Yau Street in San Po Kong, piercing the roof of a double-decker bus stopping for a red traffic light at Choi Hung Road.

A street lamp was also damaged in the incident on November 9, 1995 at 6.10 pm

To improve supervision and safety of all building sites, including demolition sites, by clearly spelling out the parties responsible for safety of site works, the Buildings Department would introduce a site supervision plan system at the end of the year.

The Assistant Director of Buildings (Legal and Management), Mr Cheung Hau-wai, said a consultancy firm was commissioned in late January to prepare a Technical Memorandum and a Code of Practice for the site supervision plan system.

"The supervision plan will include a comprehensive management system on site safety specifying how the works are to be supervised and the supervisory responsibilities of the building professionals and all other personnel engaged in the building works.

"The Technical Memorandum which will be subject to legislative procedures will lay down the system and framework for the supervision requirements," he said.

Meanwhile, to provide guidance on the safe execution of demolition works, the department is preparing a Code of Practice on Demolition Works.

"This Code will help to improve safety at demolition sites and is expected to be issued by the end of the year," Mr Cheung said.

"The department will take a serious view of any future cases of carrying out or permitting the carrying out of demolition or any other building works in a dangerous manner," he added.

End

Quality Month 97 to promote quality applications

* * * * *

The Industry Department is organising a Quality Month in March to promote greater consciousness and application of quality concepts and tools in Hong Kong.

The annual event is jointly organised by the Industry Department and 12 organisations which are interested in the promotion of quality and quality management systems in Hong Kong.

The theme of this year's quality month programmes is "Quality - for Prosperity".

The Quality Month 97 comprises a series of quality improvement activities from March to May. They include seminars, workshops, exhibitions and training courses on quality and quality management. A quality award presentation organised by the Hong Kong Management Association will also be included.

The activities are targeted at executives and managers, especially those from small and medium size enterprises, as well as academics and professionals specialising in quality management.

In addition to producing a quality promotion video for small and medium size enterprises, the Industry Department will be organising a Q-Mark and ISO 9000 certificate presentation and prize presentation to winners of the "Quality Promotion Poster Design Competition". These presentations will be held at an opening ceremony of the "Quality Month 97" scheduled for March 13.

The Chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, Mr Henry Tang, will officiate at the opening ceremony.

The Director-General of Industry, Mr Francis Ho, will also be attending the ceremony.

The 12 participating organisations are: City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Management Association, Hong Kong Productivity Council, Q-Mark Council of Federation of Hong Kong Industries, Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency, Hong Kong Quality Management Association, Hong Kong Society for Quality Control, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Institute of Quality Assurance (Hong Kong Branch), Paper Communication Exhibition Services, Quality and Reliability Centre, and University of Hong Kong.

End

Effectiveness of peer support affirmed

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An Education Department-commissioned study has found that peer support and counselling among students are effective in helping students combat the problems of suicide and substance abuse in schools.

The study, carried out by the Department of Psychology of the University of Hong Kong, affirmed the effectiveness of the Student Assistance Programme, in which a group of student helpers are trained to assist and counsel fellow students who may be in need of assistance in the areas of substance abuse or suicide.

Interviews with 126 staff members and 227 students in the study affirmed the positive effects of the programme while 329 of these 353 interviewees (93 per cent) found the programme either 'successful' or 'very successful' in helping peers in schools.

It was noted that after implementation of the Student Assistance Programme, both teaching staff and students of the participating schools were more aware of the assistance from the programme and students were more inclined to talk to the peer helpers about their problems.

The study report recommended that the programme should be further developed to become a school-based programme and that effective programmes from individual pilot schools should be cited for reference of other schools.

In response to the Governor's Drug Summit in March 1995, the Education Department commissioned the HKU study at a cost of \$1 million. The study, which commenced in March 1996 and covered Primary 4 to Primary 6 and Secondary 1 to Secondary 7 students, has now been completed.

The study consisted of two components. The first component was a broad-based survey involving 18 participating schools (nine primary and nine secondary) and five control schools (two primary and three secondary). The survey assessed students' at-risk behaviours related to substance abuse and suicide, students' degree of knowledge of the school support network and services, and students' coping skills.

The second component was the implementation of a Hong Kong Student Assistance Programme in the participating schools. A six-day training workshop for trainers was held in early July 1996. After the workshop, teams of the 18 participating schools developed their own student assistance programmes and trained 25 additional peer helpers.

The survey was carried out twice in May and November 1996 respectively before and after the implementation of the programme. The surveys were set to analyse the significance of six factors: at-risk indicators, student support services, school support services, students' coping skills, extra-curricular activities, and lack of coping skills on the part of staff members.

Similar questionnaires were used for staff and students. Follow-up interviews with school staff and students were held concurrently with the second survey.

Return rates of the surveys were high. For Phase 1, the return rates for staff and students were respectively 82.1 per cent (of 1,162) and 95.6 per cent (of 15,662), while those for Phase 2 were respectively 92.8 per cent (of 1,011) and 99.8 per cent (of 17,052).

There were 82 participants in the workshop: five school heads, 54 teachers, seven school social workers and 16 students.

At the workshop, participants were taught on the six basic functions of the Student Assistance Programme : early identification of students in need of services, assessment of the nature and severity of the problem, intervention, treatment, provision of support, and case management.

The programme was found successful. Altogether 489 peer helpers had been trained and 71 of the 82 participants (86.6 per cent) in the workshop rated the training programme as either effective or very effective.

The Assistant Director of Education (Services), Mr C K Tam, said that based on the recommendation of the report, schools will be encouraged to adopt the Student Assistance Programme.

"The department will prepare a resource package on the Student Assistance Programme for use in all schools in the territory," he said.

Mr Tam added that briefing sessions will be held to introduce the programme to schools and that relevant sections of the department will help to monitor the development of this programme in schools on a regular basis.

End

Sir Robert Ho Tung Fund pays out \$20M

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The Sir Robert Ho Tung Charitable Fund has recently granted some \$20 million for the causes of health, medicine, welfare, and special education, the Deputy Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mr Ho Wing-him, said today (Tuesday).

"The sum enables 57 organisations either to improve their existing services or to purchase new equipment," added Mr Ho, who is also the Chairman of the Fund's Allocation Committee.

Major grants this year include a sum of \$4.9 million to the Samaritan Fund which is managed by the Hospital Authority, to enable it to continue providing financial and technical assistance for patients in need.

A sum of \$1.86 million has been granted to the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals to purchase a new cardiac ultrasound imaging system at Tung Wah Hospital.

The St John Council receives \$1.57 million for strengthening services, including the replacement of a seven-year-old ambulance. The Hong Kong Family Planning Association receives \$1.43 million for setting up the first mobile clinic of family planning.

Other recipients include Po Leung Kuk, Hong Kong Red Cross, Hong Kong Family Welfare Society, The Salvation Army, United Christian Hospital, Tuen Mun Hospital, Shatin Hospital, Heep Hong Society for Handicapped Children, etc.

One of the major trust funds in Hong Kong, The Sir Robert Ho Tung Charitable Fund was set up in 1956 with a bequest of \$0.5 million by the late Sir Robert Ho Tung. It is now managed by the HKBC Trustee (Hong Kong) Ltd.

Application is invited once a year in around June and July through the Department of Health, the Hospital Authority, the Social Welfare Department, the Education Department, the Home Affairs Department, and the Agricultural and Fisheries Department.

End

Granting of banking licence to Generale Bank

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A spokesman of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority said today (Tuesday) that Generale Bank (GB) had been granted a banking licence by the Monetary Authority under the Banking Ordinance on March 5, 1997.

GB is the largest banking institution in Belgium and ranked 78th in the world in terms of tier 1 capital. The GB group has an estimated 30% share of banking business and 15% of the financial market in Belgium. It provides full-services banking through its 1,100 domestic branches and international network of subsidiaries, branches and representative offices around the world including New York, Tokyo, Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

A full branch will enable GB to maintain its global treasury activities on a 24-hour basis by operating in financial markets of Hong Kong, Brussels and New York.

After the grant of a banking licence to GB, the number of banks in Hong Kong has increased to 183 of which 31 are incorporated in Hong Kong.

End

Exhibition to promote hygiene and health

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A highly informative and entertaining exhibition with a wide range of information on food safety and health-related issues will be held at the Hong Kong City Hall and Tsuen Wan Town Hall in the coming weeks.

Entitled 'Hygiene and Health Expo 1997', the exhibition is jointly organised by the Department of Health, Urban Council and Regional Council with an aim to promote public awareness on different aspects of health and hygiene.

It will be held at the Exhibition Hall of Hong Kong City Hall from March 13 to 17 and will move to the Exhibition Gallery of Tsuen Wan Town Hall from March 26 to 30. The opening hours are from 10 am to 6 pm except March 13 (from 3 pm to 6 pm).

Apart from the Department of Health, the participants include Labour Department, Environmental Protection Department, the two Municipal Departments, Hong Kong Medical Association and Hong Kong Dietitians Association.

A spokesman for the Department of Health said: "The number of government departments and organisations taking part in the exhibition has increased this year facilitating members of the public to receive a wide scope of hygiene and health related concepts at one time of visit."

"There will be displays of exhibition boards and models on a wide variety of topics including food safety, oral health, self-care on minor ailments, good hygiene practice at work, environmental pollution, environmental health services, common diseases, nutrition and osteoporosis," he added.

"In addition, there will be audio-visual shows, computer game stalls to make the event more entertaining.

"Free education and information leaflets will be distributed," he said.

End

Livestock farming study tour departs tomorrow

* * * * *

A 40-member local livestock farming delegation will depart tomorrow (Wednesday) for a study visit in Thailand.

To mark the occasion, a banner was presented by Acting Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr Richard Yip, to the delegation's leader, Mr Tse Hing-cheung, this (Tuesday) morning.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Mr Yip hoped that members of the delegation would make use of the trip to learn more about advanced production methods, techniques and systems with a view to promoting the development of local livestock industry.

He pointed out that the delegation, with members from the Hong Kong Livestock Industry Association, would attend an international exhibition and seminar on advanced livestock farming held in Bangkok.

During the three-day tour, the group will also visit livestock farming organisations and large-scale pig farms in Thailand.

Mr Yip said the Association, established in 1987, had been actively promoting the development of local livestock industry.

It had organised various overseas livestock farming study visits in the previous years. Places visited included China, Taiwan and Malaysia.

These visits had proved useful as advanced farming techniques and methods acquired overseas could be shared among local farmers, he added.

The delegation is expected to return to Hong Kong on March 15.

End

102 VMs depart on orderly repatriation flight

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A group of 102 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) returned by air to Hanoi, Vietnam today (Tuesday) on the 97th flight under the Orderly Repatriation Programme (ORP).

The majority of the returnees, comprising 71 men, 16 women, seven boys and eight girls, were from North Vietnam. Only 15 of the returnees were from Central and South Vietnam.

Most of the returnees arrived in Hong Kong in 1989 and 1996, with the remaining in 1988 and 1991.

The group brought to 9,802 the total number repatriated on ORP flights since November 1991.

End

Monitors' report submitted to Chief Secretary

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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 Charles Chan Sing-chuk, and representative from a non-government organisation, Mrs Anthea Strickland from Save the Children Fund.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

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Tender date	:	11 March 1997
Paper on offer	:	EF Bills
Issue number	:	Q711
Issue date	:	12 March 1997
Maturity date	:	11 June 1997
Amount applied	:	HK\$7,030 MN
Amount allotted	:	HK\$2,000 MN
Average yield accepted	:	4.94 PCT
Highest yield accepted	:	4.95 PCT
Pro rata ratio	:	About 15 PCT
Average tender yield	:	4.97 PCT

Tender date	:	11 March 1997
Paper on offer	:	EF Bills
Issue number	:	H760
Issue date	:	12 March 1997
Maturity date	:	10 September 1997
Amount applied	:	HK\$3,130 MN
Amount allotted	:	HK\$1,000 MN
Average yield accepted	:	5.10 PCT
Highest yield accepted	:	5.12 PCT
Pro rata ratio	:	About 33 PCT
Average tender yield	:	5.16 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender to be held in the week beginning - 17 March 1997:

Tender date	:	17 March 1997
Paper on offer	:	EF Notes
Issue number	:	5203
Issue date	:	18 March 1997
Maturity date	:	18 March 2002
Tenor	:	5 Years
Amount on offer	:	HK\$500 MN + 100 MN
Coupon	:	6.55 pct

Tender date : 18 March 1997
Paper on offer : EF Bills
Issue number : Q712
Issue date : 19 March 1997
Maturity date : 18 June 1997
Tenor : 91 Days
Amount on offer : HK\$2,000 MN + 500 MN

Tender date : 18 March 1997
Paper on offer : EF Bills
Issue number : Y787
Issue date : 19 March 1997
Maturity date : 18 March 1998
Tenor : 364 Days
Amount on offer : HK\$500 MN + 150 MN

Tender date : 18 March 1997
Paper on offer : EF Bills
Issue number : Q073
Issue date : 19 March 1997
Maturity date : 16 April 1997
Tenor : 28 Days
Amount on offer : HK\$5,000 MN

End