



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

Saturday, April 22, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Chief Secretary's media session	1
ACP contract for roads and drainage works awarded	3
Architecture exhibition seen by 90,000 visitors	3
Social worker commended	4
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	5

Sunday, April 23, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Hong Kong tops the world container throughput	6
Four new aided day creches open soon	7
Action against selling of substandard plugs and adaptors	9
Voter registration day well-received	10
Get registered to vote: District Officers	12
Water Supplies Department warns against illegal use of water	12
How to help pupils with problems	13
Country park visitors urged to take part in meeting	15

Chief Secretary's media session

* * * * *

The following is a transcript of the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan's media session this (Saturday) afternoon:

Chief Secretary: Good afternoon everyone. I thought I would have a word with you so that you don't have to come out to the airport when I leave this evening. You all know I shall be paying a one-week visit to three European countries, that is Brussels, the Hague and Bonn. This will be my first official visit to the EU countries since I assumed the post of Chief Secretary. I very much welcome this opportunity to meet with the Prime Minister of Belgium and the Prime Minister of the Netherlands and with other senior officials and with the business community in these three countries, because it will give me a very good opportunity to bring them up to date on what's hapenning in Hong Kong, to try and address matters of mutual concern and in particular to explain to the people in these countries how we are preparing for the transition and for the reversion of sovereignty to China in 1997. I am sure that this will be a very, very productive and fruitful visit and I am very much looking forward to it.

Question: Mrs Chan, the experts in the JLG are meeting next week to talk about the Court of Final Appeal. Is this the last chance to come to some kind of substantive agreement ... so that the Bill can be introduced with the agreement of Beijing.

Chief Secretary: I am sure you are all aware of the importance to Hong Kong, not only to the people in Hong Kong but also to the wider investing community for us to be seen to be taking every possible step to set up the Court of Final Appeal as soon as possible. We have a 1991 agreement with the Chinese. Both sides have stated on many occasions that they desired to see this Court of Final Appeal established before 1997. The Chinese have had the draft Bill since May. We've had several discussions with the Chinese and we've answered all the questions that they have put to us so far. We understand that the Chinese have further questions and I very much hope that at the next expert group meeting, which is scheduled for next week, that the Chinese will let us have all their outstanding questions and I can assure them that we will do our very best to answer their questions. I further hope that either at these expert group meeting or very, very shortly after that the Chinese will be able to let us know that they agree to the draft Bill so that we can put it forward to the Legislative Council. It remains our objective to try and get the legislation enacted before the current session of Legco ends, which is towards the end of July.

Question: can I take it it is the last chance. You know time is running out. How much more time...

Chief Secretary: We want to put the Bill forward with the agreement of the Chinese and clearly we are giving every possible opportunity to the Chinese to comment on the Bill. Because as you know the draft Bill has been ready some months but it is because we very much want to have the agreement and the co-operation of the Chinese on this draft Bill that we have waited until now. But you also realise that time is running very short and there is not much time left. So, I repeat again I very much hope that the Chinese will let us have an ... approval at the next expert group meeting or very, very shortly after that.

Question: (PWC's criteria for Hong Kong citizens after 1997)

Chief Secretary: There are a number of questions, outstanding questions, and issues to be resolved concerning immigration matters. Who is a permanent Hong Kong resident, who has a right of abode and what sort of travel documents there will be after 1997. These are all questions that we are anxious to discuss and resolve with the Chinese side. As you know the Director of Immigration will be going up very shortly to continue his informal discussions with the Chinese and I very much hope that this next round of discussion will produce some concrete result. I think the Chinese are fully aware that the community here is very concerned about these issues and I am sure that both sides will work very hard to try and resolve these issue as soon as possible.

End/Saturday, April 22, 1995

ACP contract for roads and drainage works awarded

* * * * *

The Secretary for the Treasury, on the advice of the Central Tender Board, has approved the award of an Airport Core Programme (ACP) contract for the construction of roads and drainage works in the southern area of the West Kowloon Reclamation.

The contract, valued at \$467.4 million, has been awarded by the Territory Development Department to Paul Y Construction Limited of Hong Kong.

The work will comprise mainly the construction of 4.5 kilometres of roads, related drainage works, fresh water and salt water mains, as well as a footbridge and an extension of an existing pedestrian subway at the junction of Jordan Road and Ferry Street.

The contract also includes non-ACP works which involve part of the works for the roads, drains and water mains.

Work will start later this month for completion in mid 1997.

End/Saturday, April 22, 1995

Architecture exhibition seen by 90,000 visitors

* * * * *

More than 90,000 people have visited the city planning and architecture exhibition, entitled "Hong Kong - City of Vision", since it opened last week.

The exhibition in the 46th floor Sky Lobby of Central Plaza in Wan Chai has attracted not just office workers and professionals but also thousands of students and tourists.

While the current exhibition will end on April 30, in view of its popularity, there are plans to move it to Kowloon and the New Territories afterwards.

In conjunction with the exhibition, there will also be open lectures by two architects, Dr Simon Kwan and Mr Anthony H H Ng, and the Director of Planning, Dr Peter K S Pun, on Tuesday (April 25) beginning at 6 pm. The lectures will be held at the Rayson Huang Theatre of University of Hong Kong.

Admission to the exhibition and lectures are free.

End/Saturday, April 22, 1995

Social worker commended

* * * * *

The Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan, commended a social worker for her professionalism in handling a case which occurred in Yau Ma Tei last Tuesday (April 18).

Miss Wong Wai-sheung, probation officer in the South Kowloon Magistracy, sustained slight injuries during a confrontation when making a home visit to a client in a private premises in Woosung Street, Yau Ma Tei.

Mr Strachan yesterday (Friday) presented a commendation letter to Miss Wong to express the department's deep appreciation on the way she handled the situation.

"You have fully demonstrated your experience, serenity and professional skills and I feel proud to have you on the staff of this department," he said.

Mr Strachan also wished Miss Wong a speedy recovery.

End/Saturday, April 22, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

* * * * *

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$ million)
	-----	-----	-----
Opening balance in the account	1,653	09:30	+45
Closing balance in the account	1,493	10:00	+45
Change attributable to:		11:00	+45
Money market activity	+45	11:30	+45
LAF today	-205	15:00	

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 118.4 *-0.4* 22.4.95

End/Saturday, April 22, 1995

Hong Kong tops the world container throughput

* * * * *

With an annual throughput of more than 11 million TEUs (twenty foot equivalent units) in 1994, Hong Kong for the third successive year tops the world's container throughput as the busiest container port in the world, the Director of Marine, Mr Ian Dale, announced today (Sunday).

Hong Kong acquired the world's busiest container port status first in 1992 when it handled 7,971,758 TEUs. In the following year, the annual container throughput rose by 15.5 per cent to 9,204,236 TEUs, and last year at 11,050,050 TEUs, an increase of 20.1 per cent was achieved.

"Recently the annual increases in throughput are exceeding our long term forecasts," Mr Dale said.

"While these figures show a sustained and growing demand, which the port is adapting to meet, they also clearly underline the urgent need for the development of additional container terminal facilities to meet forecast increases," he said.

"Hong Kong, and its adjacent port must co-ordinate development to ensure their facilities are in place to meet the needs of the trade," Mr Dale added.

The container terminals in Kwai Chung including terminal 8 on Stonecutters Island handled 7,278,117 TEUs, in 1994, representing a 25.6 per cent increase.

During the same year, throughput in river trade sector rose by 52.8 per cent to 932,721 TEUs while the stream operators handled 2,840,392 TEUs, an increase of 1.2 per cent over a year ago.

The comparative container statistics in TEUs are:

	1994	1993	Percentage Increase
Kwai Chung Container Terminals	7,278,117	5,796,570	25.6
Stream and Elsewhere	2,840,392	2,806,220	1.2
River Trade	932,721	610,313	52.8

To avoid double counting figures are adjusted downwards by 8,867 TEUs in 1993 and 1,180 TEUs in 1994 respectively.

End/Sunday, April 23, 1995

Four new aided day creches open soon

* * * * *

Four new aided day creches will be open in the next three months to meet growing demand for day creche services.

The Senior Social Work Officer (Child Care Centres) of the Social Welfare Department (SWD), Mr Chan Kam-chor, said the four creches, with a total of 250 places, would be in Wong Tai Sin, Sha Tin, Tai Po and Tsing Yi.

At present, there are 21 aided day creches providing 1,250 places throughout the territory. Managed by 10 non-governmental organisations, they are in Wan Chai, Sai Ying Pun, Shau Kei Wan, Hung Hom, Kowloon City, Mong Kok, Ngau Tau Kok, Wang Tau Hom, Sau Mau Ping, Shek Kip Mei, Lam Tin, Yau Tong, Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung, Yuen Long, Tuen Mun and Fanling.

"The White Paper On Social Welfare has set out the objective of phased expansion of day creche services, especially in the new towns. Of the four creches to be operational later, three are in the new towns," Mr Chan said.

Day creches provide full-day care and cater to children under the age of two in a healthy and happy environment, lending a helping hand to social needs families and working parents.

Staff are professionally trained to look after children at an average ratio of one to six. Physical and intellectual programmes, including drawing, storytelling, muscle exercises and games, are tailor-made for children suitable for their age. All toys and teaching materials used at day creches are specially selected and designed to ensure safety.

"There is a schedule of daily activities to enable children to develop healthy habits. There is a timetable, for example, for feeding and rest. We prepare a balanced diet scaled to the age and need of the children," Mr Chan said.

Day creches are generally open from 8 am to 6 pm on weekdays and from 8 am to 1 pm on Saturdays. They are closed on Sundays and public holidays.

Members of the public who want to enquire day creche services are welcome to contact the Child Care Centre Advisory Inspectorate of the SWD on tel 2836 3114 or call the department's hotline 2343 2255. They can also approach any day creche to find out more about the services.

"Our staff will make regular inspections to ensure that the provision of services at day creches is kept to the required standard," Mr Chan said.

Mr Chan noted that a number of creches also provided half-day and full-day occasional care services. He called on parents to make full use of these services and not to leave children unattended at home under any circumstances.

"Persons from low-income families who need services because of work or other reasons but have financial difficulties can apply for fee assistance.

"The amount of assistance to be offered is calculated on the basis of the family's disposable income and, at its maximum, can cover the full cost," he added.

End/Sunday, April 23, 1995

Action against selling of substandard plugs and adaptors

* * * * *

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) will take action against people who still sell substandard plugs and adaptors, a spokesman for the department warned today (Sunday).

The Plugs and Adaptors (Safety) Regulation which came into effect on March 23, ban the sale of all such products not meeting the safety standards prescribed in the regulation.

The spokesman said EMSD had so far inspected 149 shops for substandard electrical products since the regulation was enforced.

"Of these, 39 shops were found still supplying plugs, adaptors or electrical products which fail to comply with the regulation.

"Warning letters have been served to these suppliers and prosecution against the serious offenders is being considered," he said.

The maximum penalty for the offence is a fine of \$50,000 on first conviction and a fine of \$100,000 and imprisonment for six months on subsequent conviction.

The spokesman also noted that there was a common misconception that the new statutory requirement to replace the two-pin plugs of the household electrical products with suitable three-pin plugs could not provide adequate protection because there was still no earthing connection after the replacement.

He pointed out that not every type of electrical product requires earthing connection.

"Some electrical products which are provided with double or reinforced insulation do not require earthing connection.

"The major objective of the requirement to replace two-pin plugs of household electrical products with suitable three-pin plugs is to make sure the plugs compatible with the three-pin-hole sockets in Hong Kong so that the hazards such as loose electrical contact can be eliminated," the spokesman explained.

End/Sunday, April 23, 1995

Voter registration day well-received

* * * * *

The five-month voter registration drive reaches a crescendo with the launching of the Voter Registration Day today (Sunday) with hundreds of thousands of people throughout Hong Kong being approached to register to vote.

Hundreds of dedicated district and housing staff, community organisers and volunteers put their collective shoulders behind the wheel to promote the "Get-Yourself-Register" message which is fresh and alive in every corner of the territory.

There was an impressive line-up of activities and assortment of programmes in all the 18 districts with an overall aim of providing an enjoyable environment in which to register.

Local celebrities were called in to help spread the message. Pop singers were invited to translate the message into songs at popular shopping centres and parks spotted with temporary registration booths and man-size comic characters and mascots to draw crowds.

Brightly decorated buses boasting eye-catching features paraded the busy streets in districts such as Kwai Tsing, Sai Kung, Yuen Long, Central and Western, Kowloon City, Wan Chai, Wong Tai Sin, Southern and Yau Tsim Mong.

A giant balloon was flown 31 metres above Sha Tin Central Park with flying messages of voter registration.

The interest of islanders and holiday-seekers were also whooped up when they saw a government vessel "Clementi" decorated with distinctive banners cruising around Lantau, Peng Chau and Cheung Chau. Lion dances were performed at Cheung Chau pier.

There was a flow of 20-plus taxis donning posters and messages in the North District.

Joyful holiday shoppers at Sha Tin New Town Plaza wrapped a central theme concert organised by Radio Television Hong Kong featuring performances by pop singers including Andy Lau, Noodle Cheng, Leo Koo and Winnie Lau.

The Chairman of the Boundary and Election Commission, Mr Justice Woo Kwok-hing and the two Commission members, Mr Norman Leung and Mr Chan Wing-tai, also attended the concert.

The chairman urged all eligible electors to support the voter registration drive.

"Register to vote is a simple matter, it will only take you a few minutes and you will be entitled to vote in September's Legislative Council Elections," he said.

He also thanked all those involved in today's activities for a job well done, adding that putting together a territory-wide function like this needed a lot of hard work and good partnership.

Mr Justice Woo said district staff would visit companies and factories in the first two weeks of May to help employees register as electors.

The Commission also visited Causeway Bay and Tsim Sha Tsui to see how the registration work went about.

The registration drive will last until June 1.

End/Sunday, April 23, 1995

Get registered to vote: District Officers

* * * * *

"Get registered to vote" was the message conveyed by the 18 district officers (DOs) in the territory to all the residents today (Sunday).

Officiating at promotional activities organised by their respective district offices, the DOs urged all eligible voters to cast their ballots in the September Legislative Council elections.

In this territory-wide voter registration campaign, bus parades were conducted in 13 districts and variety shows or singing performances were staged in Sham Shui Po, Wong Tai Sin, Tsuen Wan, Wan Chai and North District.

A carnival was also organised in Tuen Mun.

For the Islands District, district office staff travelled to various outlying islands to assist residents to become electors.

Voter registration counters were also set up in many locations throughout the territory.

End/Sunday, April 23, 1995

Water Supplies Department warns against illegal use of water

* * * * *

The Water Supplies Department today (Sunday) issued a warning that any person caught illegally using water from fire hydrants and other fire fighting equipment will be prosecuted.

The warning follows the arrest earlier of a taxi driver who was caught red-handed washing his vehicle with water from a fire hydrant/hose near the MTR station in Tsuen Wan.

He admitted a charge of illegal use of water before a magistrate who fined him \$2,500.

A department spokesman said a cooked food stall operator at On Ting estate in Tuen Mun was also due to appear in Court soon.

He has been charged with illegally altering a fire fighting equipment and illegal use of water from the fire fighting facility.

End/Sunday, April 23, 1995

How to help pupils with problems

* * * * *

The Education Department has recently issued a circular to principals of all primary and secondary schools in advising them how to handle student problems.

The circular provided some practical suggestions to school principals, teachers and parents on how to help pupils with problems.

An Education Department spokesman said it had always been the department's concern about students with behaviour problems and schools are encouraged to adopt a more positive approach in helping these students.

The spokesman said: "Most of the problems are neither serious nor permanent and can be overcome if appropriate help can be given in time to pupils concerned."

He advised schools and parents to work closely in helping pupils with behaviour problems as prevention was better than cure.

"Paying more attention to students' overall development, in particular their emotional development, is better than putting too much emphasis on their academic achievement," the spokesman added.

Teachers should observe carefully those pupils who tend to break the school rules frequently, those who are withdrawn, have sudden behaviour or mood changes or tend to be attention-seeking.

When helping students with behaviour problems, teachers should be patient, sensitive to the pupils' feeling, warm and concerned but firm and consistent.

Teachers should also liaise with the parents to seek their co-operation and support.

The spokesman said: "Class teachers should seek advice and assistance from the school principals, guidance teachers and parents when having problems in understanding the pupil with behaviour problems.

"If required, teachers can also seek professional advice from the Student Guidance Teacher, the School Social Worker or the Special Education Section," he said.

The spokesman stressed that if disciplinary measures were considered necessary, they should be carried out through more positive means.

He said teachers should inform parents of the misbehaviour of the pupils and the disciplinary measure to be taken.

On the other hand, he said, teachers should be sensitive to the feelings of the pupils when carrying out any punitive measures.

End/Sunday, April 23, 1995

Country park visitors urged to take part in meeting

* * * * *

Country park visitors wishing to make suggestions on improving facilities and services at these scenic areas are called on to register as participants in a biannual liaison group meeting next month.

Members of the public with first hand experience of country parks are also welcome to take part in the meeting to discuss with Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) staff on matters concerning country parks and special areas.

The forthcoming Country Park Visitors Liaison Group meeting will be held between 2.30 pm and 4.30 pm on May 27 (Saturday) at the Ranger Head Office, Shing Mun Country Park.

An AFD spokesman said the liaison group, established in 1993, was aimed at collecting views from the public, particularly country park visitors, to improve facilities and services provided in these areas.

Those interested in participating in the May 27 meeting are required to collect a leaflet on the liaison group from any of the country park visitor centres in Pak Tam Chung, Shing Mun, Tai Mo Shan, Aberdeen, Tai Mei Tuk and Clear Water Bay and the Lions Nature Education Centre in Sai Kung. The leaflet contains a reply slip which, after being filled in, should be returned to AFD on or before May 10.

Copies of the leaflet have also been sent to Country Parks Board members and hiking groups to invite them to attend or nominate representatives to take part in the meeting.

The spokesman said response on previous liaison group meeting held last November had been encouraging, with about 20 public representatives taking part.

Among issues discussed at the meeting were: public transport information, telephone helpline, new barbecue sites, way marker improvements, littering and traffic problems, kiosk and toilet facilities and visitor rescue.

The spokesman expected more people with better suggestion would participate in the forthcoming meeting following the increased awareness in the community on the importance of protecting country parks.

Further enquiries on the liaison group or its meeting can be made to AFD's Country Parks Protection Section on 2733 2132 or 2733 2125.

End/Sunday, April 23, 1995