



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Health ambassadors to promote healthy life-style

The earlier one starts a healthy lifestyle, the more effective it will be on disease prevention, Deputy Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Doris Ho, said today (Saturday).

Speaking at the Second Health Ambassador Graduation Ceremony, Mrs Ho said studies had shown that there was a close relationship between many chronic diseases and lifestyle.

She paid tribute to the Health Ambassador Training Programme which is designed to provide health information for different spectrums of people like women and students.

Mrs Ho noted that after completing the course, the health ambassadors would take up the responsibility of delivering health messages in their neighbourhood so as to promote the health status of the community as a whole.

Also speaking at the ceremony, the acting Director of Health, Dr T A Saw, pointed out that the success of health education was not only rested with health professionals' efforts, but also on public's enthusiastic participation.

"Disease prevention is better than treatment, and health education is disease prevention's crucial key," he said.

He was confident that the health ambassadors would live up to their mission in health promotion and cultivation of a healthy community by bringing the health message to their peers, their districts and even the community.

He noted that during the last year, the health ambassadors had held some 100 health educational activities, and the participants totalled 30,000. This fully reflected each and every health ambassador's effort and success.

A total of 795 health ambassadors graduated today, including 555 students from about 110 schools and 240 women.

The Health Ambassador Programme is an innovative step over the conventional reliance on health activities rendered by health professionals.

The concept is to draw community support to and participation in spreading health messages.

Community members joining the programme are required to attend training sessions which cover health topics like healthy lifestyle, mental and physical health.

The Department of Health will organise advanced courses for those ambassadors who are interested to learn more.

End/Saturday, November 4, 1995

New format certificates to be issued by Immigration

The Immigration Department announced today (Saturday) the introduction of new format certificates for birth, death and marriage registrations in conjunction with the implementation of a new computer system to automate the registration process.

"The new computer system is developed under the department's Information Systems Strategy to automate the registration process and the printing of certificates with the computer," a spokesman for the department said.

"All registries located in Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories will be linked up by a dedicated communications network to facilitate data transfer between offices. This will help shorten the processing time for record search and the issue of certificates from 17 to 14 working days.

"To tie in with the operation of the new system, a revised format of the certificates for birth, death and marriage registrations will be introduced. Specifically, the information particulars on the certificates will be presented in a row form as opposed to the existing column form. This new format will also apply to the certified copies to be issued in respect of birth and death entries registered before the system comes into operation.

"However, certified copies of marriage certificates will continue to be in the form of microfilm hardcopies produced from the duplicate kept by the registry.

"The new format certificates for birth and death registrations will be introduced on Monday (November 6) and the new format marriage certificates on November 20. The existing format certificates will continue to be valid and acceptable for the purposes of the respective ordinances," the spokesman added.

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Tenders invited for purchase of "Sir Cecil Clementi"

The Government is inviting tenders for the purchase of the unserviceable launch "Sir Cecil Clementi".

The launch, named after the Governor between 1925 and 1930, the late Sir Cecil Clementi, has a length of 23.7 metres and a breadth of 5.4 metres. She weighs 80.63 tons.

Tender forms are obtainable from the Procurement Division, Government Supplies Department, 12 Oil Street, North Point, Hong Kong; the Central and Western District Office, ground floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong; and the Mong Kok District Office, Mong Kok Government Offices, ground floor, 30 Luen Wan Street, Kowloon.

The closing date for tenders is December 21, 1995.

Further particulars are obtainable from the Procurement Division, Government Supplies Department, 12 Oil Street, North Point, Hong Kong (Tel.: 2802 6253).

End/Saturday, November 4, 1995

First man to finish Trailwalker

The first man to finish Trailwalker 95 was the sole survivor of a Gurkha team from the Queen's Gurkha Signal Regiment. Signaller Manbahadur Thada lost about 50 minutes helping to carry his teammate to safety (hamstring injury), who was injured between checkpoints 3 and 4. Thada was then about 30 minutes behind the leading team, but in a remarkable solo effort he regained the lead, accompanied by Queen's Gurkha Support too, cross the finishing line first, after 13 hours 54 minutes.

The winning team (Carlingford Comets) finished in 14 hours 26 minutes.

Thada was a member of last year's winning team.

End/Saturday, November 4, 1995

Tsuen Wan Sports Festival opens

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Members of the public will have an opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of sporting events during the 16th Tsuen Wan Sports Festival starting from tomorrow (Sunday).

The festival is jointly organised by the Tsuen Wan Sports Festival Committee and the Federation of Tsuen Wan District Sports and Recreation Association with the assistance of the Tsuen Wan District Office.

Apart from popular sports such as football, basketball, badminton, ping-pong and archery, the committee has also arranged some specially-modified sports games for the disabled.

The festival will also stage some sports not commonly seen in Hong Kong, including demonstration flights of remote-control model planes and street soccer.

The chairman of the committee, Mr Chan Sung-yip, said this annual sports festival aimed to give members of the public a chance to participate in different kinds of sports activities and to promote community spirit.

Sponsored by the Tsuen Wan District Board, the Regional Council and local organisations, the sports festival will take place from tomorrow till November 26.

End/Saturday, November 4, 1995

Salt water cut in Kwai Chung

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Flushing water supply to some premises in Kwai Chung will be temporarily suspended from 10 pm on Tuesday (November 7) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water mains work.

The affected area includes all premises in Sheung Kwai Chung and Kwai Chung area, south of Shing Mun Road, east of Wo Yi Hop Road, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Shek Yam Estate, Shek Lei Estate and On Yam Estate.

End/Saturday, November 4, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ Million	Time (Hours)	Cumulative Change (\$ Million)
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Opening Balance in the account	2,372	09:30	+200
Closing Balance in the account	1,727	10:00	+200
Change Attributable to:		11:00	+200
Money Market Activity	+200	11:30	+200
Laf Today	-845		

Laf Rate 4.25% Bid/6.25% Offer TWI 122.5 *+0.0* 4.11.95

End/Saturday, November 4, 1995

Governor's statement

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The Governor of Hong Kong, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten made the following statement today (Sunday):

I was shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Mr Rabin was an outstanding statesman who gave a lifetime of service to the people of Israel. It was a cruel irony that he should have lost his life for his courageous efforts to bring peace to his country and its neighbours. On behalf of the people of Hong Kong, I offer my deepest sympathy and condolences to the government and people of Israel.

End/Sunday, November 5, 1995

The Governor's "Letter to Hong Kong"

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Following is the full text of the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's broadcast on RTHK's Letter to Hong Kong today (Sunday):

I got home last Sunday from just over a week away in Britain. It was a glorious day to return. Warm. Sunny. Not much humidity. And was I imagining it? - I didn't get a whiff of the not always so fragrant harbour when I got off the 'plane.

Anyway, Hong Kong looked beautiful, bustling and cheerful. All seemed fine with the world, which would have pleased all our well-wishers overseas. And there are a lot of them. When I said at the airport that, once again, I'd been struck by the interest in Britain about what's happening in Hong Kong, and struck too by all the support for us, I wasn't kidding. At conferences and dinners for businessmen, the halls were full, and the sympathies were generous. Anson Chan found exactly the same thing when she was in Japan the other day.

But I do sometimes ask myself whether ever-bigger audiences are necessarily a good sign. One reason why people come to hear us speak is that they want to be reassured by what we say. Reassured by our answers about Hong Kong's unique future. In many ways, I'd of course be happier if the crowds were smaller and the need for reassurance all the less.

So what do I say in an attempt to remove the anxieties from furrowed brows?

I start by reminding people how many times Hong Kong has been killed off in the headlines before. You could paper the walls with our premature obituaries. Why don't people who write about or comment on our affairs, try to keep a sense of proportion? Why don't they remember any history?

When the Joint Declaration was signed over ten years ago, much of the world said that Hong Kong was finished. One famous business magazine predicted that there'd be no more big building projects in Hong Kong. Just look out of the window and see how right that forecast was. So, today, when people say, "it's all up", just remember that since those things were said in 1984, our economy has grown by over 80 per cent. Our exports have shot up by over 400 per cent. There are proportionately about eight times as many young people going to tertiary colleges. We've built new tunnels. New houses. New skyscrapers. New hospitals. New homes for the elderly. Our reserves have grown by 600 per cent. Our place as one of the best and brightest business centres in the world has been confirmed. So, if that's what it's like to be on the scrap heap, maybe we should be searching for a few more.

Turn the clock on to Tiananmen in 1989, or to the row with China in 1992 and the following year about keeping our promises on democracy. When you see what's happened since those dates - again, when calamity was forecast, collapsing skies, collapsing markets - it's the same story. Hong Kong kept its nerve. To borrow a phrase, we kept cool and kept on collecting.

1997 colly-wobbles deserve to be treated, first, with a good dollop of history and experience.

But that isn't going to be enough. What more is required?

First, it really is important to make clear that we're certainly not going to make big changes in Hong Kong before 1997. Now we've got a wholly elected legislature - just as was promised - we should show clearly to the world that its vigorous activities are wholly compatible with good government and good economics. That doesn't mean that nothing changes. It requires, as I've said before, give and take. Not all give from one side, and all take from the other. Whatever we do in working out our relationship, we mustn't depart - or give the impression of departing - from the economic policies that have made Hong Kong so successful.

Does anyone really suppose that Hong Kong has been following the wrong path? That we've made a mess of things? That 35 years of uninterrupted growth is a sign of fundamental error?

What's the right way, the Hong Kong way, of doing things? Low taxes. Prudent spending - which because it's prudent goes steadily on upwards. Up 50 per cent in real terms on care for the elderly in three years. We don't interfere with business. Don't prop up the failures. Don't subsidise the successes. We look to the long-term, and we know that free lunches aren't the way to invest in that long term. If you only take decisions on the basis that they may be popular tomorrow morning, the long term and its bonuses never come. And, by the way, you aren't always very popular tomorrow morning either.

Funnily enough, the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, was telling his party two weeks ago that Europe had to follow these lessons in order to compete with Asian economies like Hong Kong. It's an important lesson for Europe. But we shouldn't forget it ourselves.

It's beyond '97 though, that the real worries focus. Why pretend otherwise? It's better, healthier, more sensible, to face up to those anxieties openly, rather than make your own private post-'97 arrangements while declaring that there's nothing to worry about.

What do people worry about? Simple. That things are going to change. The way we are governed. The way we do business. The way we live. And when these things are threatened, it doesn't make sense to brush it all under the carpet, hope that no one will notice, and keep your fingers crossed that all will somehow be all right come the day.

What Hong Kong has to go on doing is making clear that it cares. Making clear that it expects promises about its way of life to be kept. Making clear that guarantees of the survival of our system are not there to be redefined on a speciously legalistic whim.

The best guarantee for Hong Kong, and I shall never tire of saying this, is Hong Kong. If we want things to stay as they are, and if we say that politely but firmly, then they will. Or at the very least, the outcome we want is much more likely.

People outside look with admiration at what Hong Kong has achieved. The whole world will cheer when we go - as we can - from strength to strength.

And what does that strength mean?

I quoted one economist pundit the other day who said that if Hong Kong went on like this, it would - within half a working life time - be the richest city in the world. That's the message, someone said to me recently, to tell people. Well, yes - but Hong Kong will only be that rich if it stays free, open and decent. That's the key. No one should be allowed to forget that.

End/Sunday, November 5, 1995

Credit union movement contributes to community

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The credit union movement has made useful contributions to our community since its inception in Hong Kong in 1964, the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, Dr Lawrence Lee, said today (Sunday).

Dr Lee, who is Registrar of Credit Unions, was speaking at the celebrations marking this year's International Credit Union Day.

The credit union movement has grown substantially ever since it was founded more than 30 years ago by pioneers and leaders such as Father John Collins and Mr Andrew So, he said.

"At present, there are 69 credit unions and over 50,000 members, with savings totalling about \$666 million. The membership and savings have increased considerably by 133 per cent and 1,700 per cent respectively in 10 years.

"With the enthusiastic support of the members and the dedicated efforts of the volunteer workers, I have confidence that the movement in Hong Kong will continue to sustain its achievement under the co-ordination and leadership of the Credit Union League," he said.

Dr Lee pointed out that the Credit Unions Ordinance had been amended in June this year.

The amendments, he said, had simplified the winding-up procedures for credit unions, thereby facilitating the liquidation of inactive credit unions.

"This in turn will provide a healthy environment enabling us to concentrate our efforts to promote the credit union movement in Hong Kong," he added.

Dr Lee also took the opportunity to present outstanding and long service certificates to people who have made significant contributions to the local credit union movement.

End/Sunday, November 5, 1995

\$274 million Lotteries Fund approved

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A total of \$274,427,400 has been approved from the Lotteries Fund to finance various social welfare service programmes during the third quarter of 1995, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Sunday).

"Of the amount, \$88,976,900 are earmarked to family and child welfare services, \$112,956,000 to elderly and medical social services, \$66,571,400 to rehabilitation services, \$2,203,700 to youth services, \$393,900 to community development services and \$3,325,500 to social welfare support programmes," the spokesman said.

The Lotteries Fund was established for the purpose of financing, by way of a grant, loan or an advance, the operation or development of social welfare services and medical or educational projects with a welfare content.

End/Sunday, November 5, 1995

New address for Employees' Compensation Office

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The Labour Department's Employees' Compensation Division (Kwai Chung) Office will move from Kwai Hing Government Offices to Tsuen Wan on November 14 (Tuesday).

The new office is on sixth floor, Tsuen Wan Government Offices, 38 Sai Lau Kok Road.

Telephone numbers for public enquiries will be changed to 2417 6242 and 2417 6243 on the same day.

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