



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Friday, July 5, 1996

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Transcript of Governor's media session

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Following is the transcript of the media session given by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, after attending an RTHK phone-in programme this (Friday) morning:

Governor: Good morning. I'm going back to Europe this evening for a week, and perhaps it will be a help to you if I say a word or two about that now rather than dragging you out to the airport tonight. I'm going to Brussels on Monday and Tuesday for meetings with the President of the European Commission, Mr Santer; Sir Leon Brittan, the Vice-president; and a number of other commissioners, both to talk about trade issues and to talk about visa-free access. So that's quite a heavy agenda but I was very pleased with Sir Leon's visit to Hong Kong a few weeks ago and we do want to ensure that there is as good and understanding a relationship between the European Union and Hong Kong as possible. I'm then going to London for a few days where I will be seeing the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and other senior officials and where I'll be making a speech on Wednesday night. And then on Saturday night before flying home, I'm taking the salute of the Royal Tournament at which the Royal Hong Kong Police Band will be one of the star turns, so it will be a great pleasure and I'm delighted to hear them playing in Earls Court rather than in my back garden. So I'll be back a week on Monday.

Question: Mr Patten, what do you think about one of your advisors Mr Jimmy McGregor and his Democratic Foundation yesterday claimed that if C Y Tung ...

Governor: C H Tung.

Question: ... C H Tung, sorry, and Mrs Anson Chan remain as the head of the civil service ...?

Governor: I can't comment on what individual political organisations say about the Chief Executive (Designate). This is a free society and everybody can express their views about who the Chief Executive should be just as they can express their views about who's going to win the next race at Happy Valley.

Question: But Mr McGregor is an ExCo member. Does it imply that ...?

Governor: No, it just implies that my executive councillors are independent minded and speak out when the occasion should demand, but there's no question of us having in the Executive Council taken a view of the issue. We couldn't and we wouldn't.

Question: Mr Patten ... Prime Minister, will you talk to him about your political future?

Governor: No. I'll talk to him about Hong Kong's future, but not mine.

Question: Mr Patten, there are six directorate officers of GIS who will leave later this year and next year. So do you think that it shows that civil servants lack the confidence in the future Government?

Governor: I hope not. As I said on the phone-in programme, we've had very few drop-outs in the civil service proportionately over the last couple of years, though the figures are slightly higher at the more senior levels. We've managed when people have left to replace them with very good usually younger civil servants and I hope that would be the case in the GIS as it has been elsewhere. Any more. Thank you very much indeed.

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Phone-in with the Governor

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Following is a transcript of the RTHK Phone-in Programme with the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, this (Friday) morning:

Presenter: Perhaps let us have a chat with the Governor. Let me put a question to the Governor myself about the Provisional Legislature, this is the most controversial issue at the moment.

Question: The Chinese Government said that the Provisional Legislature is going to be set up. In the coming 300 hundred or so days what can Hong Kong do and what can Britain do?

Governor: What we will do is to go on giving our support and endorsement to the existing Legislature which is freely and fairly elected in line with the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law, which was elected by a record number of people and which reflects, very faithfully I think, the opinions of people in Hong Kong. We worry that Chinese officials do not like the fact that it reflects the opinions of Hong Kong.

But, you know, the reason why we have these elections, the reason why we have had a steady step by step process of democratisation is because back in 1984 when we negotiated the Joint Declaration, everybody thought that the best way of giving real muscle to the concept of Hong Kong people running Hong Kong and the best way of affording substantial protection to people's civil liberties in Hong Kong, was by having local Hong Kong people elected to the body to which government is accountable. I think that principle was right in 1984 and I do not think it becomes any less right in 1996.

Question: Governor, can I just ask you one other question. I think it is quite important to the Civil Service and how the Civil Service sees through the hand over. I think certainly it is fair to say that perhaps a great deal of experience and expertise has been lost with people voting with their feet - to take a line from a recent speech by David Chu - leaving the Civil Service, seeking homes elsewhere, so have we got a Civil Service now, able really to tackle these problematic issues 1997 and beyond will certainly raise?

Governor: I think we have got strength and depth both in the Civil Service and in the Police and elsewhere in public service. I think two or three things have happened. First of all we have had to speed up the process of localisation. When I arrived in 1992 a large number of my senior colleagues were expatriates, very good expatriates but I think they recognised that it was time to hand over to locals, and that has meant that we have had younger local civil servants coming through, I think people of really outstanding quality. And you see them doing very good jobs today, including, I am pleased to say, a large number of women.

Secondly, some senior civil servants and police officers had to make a calculation about what they could get in terms of gratuities and pension now, and what the situation might be like in four or five years time and they concluded, with a good deal of economic rationality, to take the cheque now rather than to wait.

And thirdly, there are probably some who are a little bit cautious about the future.

But I think we have not, anywhere, been in a position where we have not been able to promote good people to take the job that has been left by somebody else. I think it is a tribute to the development of our public service over the years that so many very good local officers are there. It is interesting, if you look at a service which was localised very early, like the Fire Service, that has never had any difficulty in running a very competent service indeed, and I think the same should be true right across the board.

Question: I would like to express my concern today over the lack of progress being made in the pursuit of British citizenship for Hong Kong's ethnic minorities. Following my question to you after your Policy Speech last year you confirmed to me that we have the unqualified support of all government departments in pursuing our cause. However, it has been over six months since we made an initial request to the Government to give us information on the exact number of affected people and we have not heard anything in regard to this. I don't think it is unreasonable to say six months is a very long time, especially given our tight time frame.

Our supporters in the UK and Hong Kong continue to press us on this all important number. The lack of this information is preventing further constructive lobbying being made in the UK. This is a very serious problem for us at a very desperate time and I wanted to know what you have to say about that?

Governor: First of all let me say something about the number, and secondly let me say something about the progress that may or may not have been made. First of all we have been working out as accurate a number as possible. We now think we have got that. It is not terribly straightforward but we think we have got the figures about right and we are very happy to discuss those over the coming weeks with the Legislative Council. In fact, in overall terms we think we are talking about 8,000 people or thereabouts of whom probably a half or just under are from the South Asian sub-continent.

Secondly, on the progress - and I am not sure that the progress, frankly, is closely attached to the precise number - on the progress, while things have not moved as far as you would understandably have wished we have seen over the last year significant movements on two fronts. First of all we have seen the Prime Minister here earlier this year taking the pledge which British Government have made about the position of ethnic minorities several steps further down the road. Not nearly as far as you would like to go, not as far as the Hong Kong Government has pressed, but nevertheless progress.

Secondly, when Mr Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary was here, he made really rather a significant commitment, I thought. He said that any ethnic minority who wished to go to the United Kingdom after 1997 would be able to do so, would be able to have right of abode. And if you have right of abode you earn a passport by the length of time you stay in a country.

Now, both those fall short of your desire for a straightforward pledge to a passport here in Hong Kong, but they are nevertheless considerable movements from the main political parties in the UK, and I think that reflects the pressure that you have brought to bear on MPs at Westminster, the pressure that you have brought to bear on visiting ministers, and the moral strength of your argument.

Question: I appreciate that. Thank you very much for giving me this information on the number because it is something we have pursued for a long time. I did meet with Robin Cook in Hong Kong and one of the most important issues that he raised was the number and I certainly am looking forward to hearing from your office in the very near future about that exact number and the people.

Governor: Can I just add one thing about the number because it is relevant. What a lot of people worry about is that the number will become self-inflating, because they are concerned that some people who do actually have another passport, maybe an Indian passport or a Pakistani passport, will, if they get a hint of being able to get a British passport through another scheme, forget about their Indian and Pakistani passport or their passport from some other part of the world and claim that they are stateless and claim that they should qualify for a British passport as well. So there are problems about how exactly you ring-fence the number. The 8,000 that we have given is our best estimate of the figure today.

Question: I fully agree with you, thank you very much.

Question (Mr Chan): On TV, in newspapers, I have been reading about you a lot. I really admire you because now you are called a criminal down the ages by the Chinese side but yet you are still working for the welfare of Hong Kong people, you are still touring the districts and you are still getting around. But then my thinking is, well, you will be Governor still for 360 days.

When you first came to Hong Kong you said this - well, at that time I was already over 50 and I am around with the elderly people and we have been working all our lives and we are the poor sector - you said that you would be enhancing the old age allowance for elderly people. At that time many elderly people really backed you up because in Hong Kong there are many elderly people who have been working very hard for all their lives. They have children, however the children also have to work from hand to mouth; they have to work for their own families and will not be able to support the elderly. And then from the newspapers I have read this - well maybe because the Chinese Government said something - and so it seems you have not done much in this respect.

There are so many elderly people in Hong Kong and over the decades they have contributed a lot to Hong Kong and the prosperity of Hong Kong really can be attributable to the contributions of the elderly. So I am saying this: I hope that you will do more for us in the remaining 360 days. Please do something good for the elderly people.

Governor: I very much agree with what you said, Mr Chan, about the debt which the whole community owes to older people who built our success and prosperity today but very often were not in a position to save themselves for their own future. We have in fact increased benefit rates for elderly people I think pretty sharply over the years. We have introduced new measures like the Chinese New Year special grant of \$200 for elderly recipients. We are spending, I think I am right in saying, this year, over 50% more, after allowing for rises in prices, on things like the Health and Welfare Services for the elderly as well as financial assistance, special flats for the elderly, reduction of elderly waiting time for public housing and so on.

It is absolutely imperative that we do provide better for the elderly. Some people call that welfarism. I can't really understand that since we can well afford it. I think it is a recognition of our responsibilities to the senior citizens in our community who have made such sacrifices for Hong Kong's prosperity today and I totally take your point that whatever we have done in the last four years, we should set our sights higher and try to do even more. I hope that the introduction of the Mandatory Provident Fund and the, as it were, private schemes for people's retirement will mean that in the future government does not have to do as much because everybody will have been encouraged to do more for themselves.

Question (Mr Ho): I would like Mr Governor to respond to what I want to say. Of course please wait until I finish. Mr Governor, you said that appointments do not have credibility. But then you are also appointed by the Queen herself and then the Letters Patent and the Royal Instructions are not documents of credibility. You said that the Provisional Legislature should be reprimanded but then I believe you yourself, and the Queen, should be reprimanded because you did not admit to the seven letters that have been exchanged.

And also, the British Government also stopped the talks between the British side and the Chinese side unilaterally, and also, because of the political reforms, and that is why we need the Provisional Legislature.

And also, in the present Legislative Council there are 16 people who have dual nationality and who have a passport of a foreign nationality. You said that this would abide by the Basic Law but this is wrong because it is in contravention to Article 17 of the Basic Law.

The fourth point and the last point, Mr Governor, you went to America to criticise the Provisional Legislature but you did not mention the seven letters and also you did not mention the political reforms. You actually misled the Hong Kong international community. The Chinese side have already explained what they mean by three contraventions and why they need the Provisional Legislature. But then, Mr Governor, you turned away from it, you bucked the issue.

Presenter: Your point is very clear. Let's hear from the Governor. I think there are four points there.

Governor: I think you must be living in Happy Valley, Mr Chu. First of all, the seven letters are completely irrelevant to what you are saying, there was no agreement in the seven letters. But there is a simple point at heart here. I believe in democracy, I believe that the people of Hong Kong - leave the Queen out of it, leave an appointed Governor out of it - I think the people of Hong Kong should choose who represents them. I don't think that choice should be made by the NCNA or the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office because I am not sure that they will want a balanced representation in our Legislature. I want everybody to be represented in our Legislature, including most decisively, Mr Chu, you.

Question: Mr Governor, since March 1 this year there has been a crackdown on the house churches in China. House churches are independent churches, other than the three-self church, as you are aware. People who preach the resurrection, which is a basic tenet of Christianity, and say heaven, hell, angels, all these metaphysical matters, are subject to persecution. And it raises anxiety in my mind and also in the minds of other people in Hong Kong that come 1997, Hong Kong churches may have to be subjected to the three-self church which is already established here, and then whatever they preach will also be subject to the limits that the Chinese authority may choose to perpetuate here through the government here in Hong Kong, through the SAR. But I have not heard of anything of this sort in Hong Kong and I wonder why.

Governor: Can I begin by declaring an interest. I, like you, believe in the resurrection. And I, like you, am therefore concerned when I hear about the churches, whatever denomination, being persecuted or restricted in their activities anywhere in the world. The position in Hong Kong is absolutely plain, Hong Kong has been promised in the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law, freedom of worship, among other freedoms. We enjoy that today. The churches not only act as the channel for people's spirituality but they also play an extremely important part in our social life, health care, welfare, education, and they have a complete assurance in the Basic Law and the Joint Declaration that they will be able to continue in their present lively condition after 1997.

It would be an intolerable infringement of the Joint Declaration and it would be a breach of the Basic Law were things to be otherwise and I do not believe, even though I find myself from time to time making critical remarks about things that Chinese officials have said, I do not believe that Chinese officials could conceivably want, under any circumstances, to lend their names and their reputation to any harassment of the churches in Hong Kong.

Question: But then how come we do not hear anything of this sort in the mass media in Hong Kong?

Governor: I think we do hear a bit about the point you made about the state of the church in China. I mean I have certainly read that in some of the newspapers and of course in the international press as well, so I think we get reports of that. But I very much hope that the press will be robust and will exercise its freedom robustly in reporting the continuing activity of the churches in Hong Kong and in supporting the continuing activities of the churches in Hong Kong. Freedom of worship is one of the fundamentals of a free society and Hong Kong today is, I suppose, one of the freest societies anywhere in the world.

Question: No, I have not finished --

Presenter: We have to move on because we have many more calls to get through and the Governor has been very clear on that. And perhaps we should see more from the church leadership itself coming out and expressing its views about freedom of worship after 1997.

Question (Mr Wan): Over the past hundred years or so Britain has done something which it can be proud of in front of the whole world because it turned Hong Kong, a city of nothing, into a well renowned city, and also it has saved a lot of people running away from communism in China. But then Britain has also done something which is immoral and cruel and that is, for people who have had British passports now you are returning these people to a government without any civil liberties and human rights and when you do this you have not consulted the people of Hong Kong. These very basic rights are now taken away by Britain. Now, how can we be confident that Britain will still be protecting our rights in the future?

Governor: First of all on the first point, I think what Britain has done in Hong Kong is to provide, as it were, an infrastructure of laws and freedoms within which Chinese people themselves have created this success. As you say, people overwhelmingly refugees from some of the sad and tragic events to the north over the last 40 or 50 years.

Secondly, on the British passport, I think you probably know that I have spoken out on this issue, I have tried to stand up for Hong Kong both here and back in the United Kingdom, and it has not always made me very popular there. I agree with you that the British passport that people have in their pocket, over three million of them, should not only entitle them to travel more freely around the world but should also entitle them to the right of abode in the United Kingdom. I have said that again and again. What we have managed to do is to introduce under the British Nationality Scheme a scheme under which getting on for I suppose 150,000 people or thereabouts will be able to settle and live in Britain if they wish.

On the overall question of a British passport giving right of abode to everybody else, I have to say that while I have argued about this, just as David Wilson before me argued about it, both the main British political parties are adamant in turning the idea down, so I don't want to give any people false hopes on this issue, it would be unfair of me to do so. But I will continue to speak up on this issue which for me, as for you, is a moral issue and not just a question of practical politics.

Question (Mr Leung): When you first came to Hong Kong, if I remember correctly, you seem to have promised Hong Kong people that in a very short while we would turn primary education into a unisessional kind of education but it has not been realised. I place a lot of emphasis on the uni-sessional education for primary students and I have tried to get in contact with Mr Cheung Man-kwong. But I have not been able to phone-in to RTHK. And then at the Metro Station I had a chance to talk to Mr Cheung last night. He said that, well I have been working on this and he said that just before the day before I talked to you I was fighting for this at the Legislative Council; it is just that the Hong Kong Government is putting in hurdles not asking the people to do this. So is it the Governor or Mr Cheung who is not doing this? Before you go, Mr Governor, I would like to hear an answer from you and I hope that this would really be materialised.

Governor: First of all, Mr Cheung Man-kwong is a very committed member of the Legislative Council and I know that he has been working very hard for additional resources for education and he certainly can't be held to blame for the fact that we have not been moving ahead as fast on uni-sessional primary education as you would like and many others would like. We have actually been investing more in education. I think it has gone up by about 25% after allowing for the rise in prices in the last four years. We have been ensuring that most of our new schools built for primary education are unisessional, and we have been concentrating on what I think are the biggest priorities in most people's minds and that is increasing the number of teachers and trying to reduce the ratios so that there are more teachers per pupil than was the case in the past. But you are quite right to lay so much emphasis on primary education. We do have to do more as resources allow and as we are able to produce the actual school buildings to meet your objective. It is an important one. I know how important primary education is, both my grandparents were head teachers of primary schools and it is where the foundation for everybody's schooling is laid.

Question: Recently, it seems like there is a lot of noise talking about the freedom of expression. But on the other hand we have heard a lot on the slogan of 'rule of law with common sense'. But then in 1919 a social justice of the United States Supreme Court, Oliver Wendel Holmes Junior (phonetic) once gave his opinion in a case saying that the most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man falsely shouting "Fire!" in a theatre and causing a panic.

Now my question to you is: in this age of image glut are we able to say that for somebody that is shouting, "give me liberty or give me CNN", is that the right time to do so?

Governor: I agree with you that no freedom is absolute, that we exercise in a plural society freedom within a rule of law. And if you think about freedom of speech, that is not absolute because you can't libel the next door neighbour without running the risk of being taken to court and you can't show or write obscene or pornographic material for children because that would be wrong, so there are limits within which freedom of speech is exercised. But on the other hand you have to be very careful that those limits do not erode the basic principle of freedom of speech because freedom of speech is one of the most important things in any open society.

I think freedom of speech is one of the reasons why Hong Kong is so successful. When people say to me all that people are interested in Hong Kong is money, I say to them well, why does Hong Kong have the most newspapers per head in the world? It has newspapers because people are interested in public affairs, because they want to participate in public affairs, because they want to hear about public affairs. So I think freedom of speech is important.

I agree with you that sometimes freedom of speech these days, because of the globalisation of communications, because of television, because of competition in the media, that freedom of speech can become intrusive; that we have images built up one day, smashed to bits the next. But these are things which require a sensible dialogue between public officials and the media, not the attempt by public officials to stop the media from exercising their own freedoms in as responsible a way as possible.

Question: Mr Governor, indeed you are a man of the four seasons, so therefore all I can say is that beware of the Ides of the Augustine.

Governor: Right, I will certainly be aware of that.

Governor: We have got past March anyway, so that ides can be forgotten about for the time being.

Question (in Chinese): Mr Governor, you talked about the media. Recently, some people passed out on the credibility of the media saying that they are not representing the truth. As far as you are concerned what areas are the ones that you think need improvement on?

Governor: I think there are two areas which are of real concern. First of all, I think that everybody talks about in the media, everybody talks about a growth in self-censorship and I think that is a worry and should be resisted. It does not come naturally, frankly, in Hong Kong, and I think that most people still put their dollars on the news-stand to purchase newspapers that tell things as they really are. I think that has been pretty clear with the Chinese language press, particularly over the last year. So I think self-censorship is something to watch out for. It is a pretty feeble response and a pretty unprincipled response to events.

Secondly, I think there have been one or two very disturbing cases where the media have, or parts of the media - not all the media, not all the media - but parts of the media have overstepped the line, making stories up, being intrusive in the way they poke their notebooks and cameras into the corners of people's lives, and I think the media must recognise - and it has got to come from proprietors down - must recognise their responsibilities to be fair as well as fearless.

Question: My question relates to the industrial safety issue and all the hype in the newspapers at the present time. I am a safety professional and I think you have heard from me anyway so I shan't mention my name over the air. My concern is that the immediate reaction by government at the present spate of accidents in no way relates to the actual problem and I would urge you to ask the government to set up a consultative body with the industry. At the present time I do assist in many of the initiatives that go forward but there is no proper link to the industry itself on matters of industrial health and safety. Perhaps if something could be set up similar to CONIAC in the UK - the Construction Industry Advisory Council --

Governor: You had better explain to people that is not brandy.

Question: ... CONIAC is the Construction Industry Advisory Council and it contains a number of safety professionals of the construction industry who sit together with government and industry leaders and discuss the safety issues properly and thoroughly and come up with measures which actually do work, as opposed to what we see in Hong Kong repeatedly is a knee-jerk reaction to the problem whereby a bunch of experts are wheeled out from somewhere - I don't know where - where the experts did not exist before, and then they put in place measures which relate largely to traffic-warden duties where they go out and stick a lot of tickets on and then create a myth that they have tackled the problem. It is a very great concern to those safety professionals in the industry and I have written to the Secretary for Education and Manpower on this point and whilst I got a very polite letter back, it was just repeating the rhetoric we hear daily.

Rather than take up any more of your time, perhaps you would make a brief comment and then I can get off.

Governor: You have actually raised an extremely important problem because I actually think that while most of the statistics about Hong Kong make terrific reading, frankly the figures for industrial safety make awful reading. We are a first world economy and we have pretty well third world statistics on industrial safety. They have got a bit better in the last year or two but they are still awful. We have been trying to deal with that, working with employers and employees. I am not sure whether you know about the work of our Health and Safety Council of the Labour Advisory Board but I think they try to do what you were describing earlier. We have increased the number of factory inspectors, we have increased the number of laws and regulations and penalties for people who behave badly.

But at the end of the day - and I would welcome your thoughts and advice on this - at the end of the day what we have to do is to change the culture on the factory floor and above all on the construction site. We have problems working at height, we have problems in the construction industry as a whole, we have problems where people have to work in a confined space. We have problems elsewhere but those are the main ones and we really do have to tackle them more energetically and with more commitment, otherwise there are going to be many more widows and many more children without a father. So I would welcome any thoughts and ideas you had and totally agree with you that it has got to be a combined effort.

Question: You seem to have a good grasp on it. I actually heard you say ...

Presenter: Thank you very much.

Question: ... LegCo last night. The problem ...

Presenter: Mr Law on the line.

Question (Mr Law) (in Chinese): You are a fighter for democracy in the international arena. In the United Nations Commission on Human Rights they are saying that you should reform the Hong Kong system of receiving complaints but then it seems the proposals are not materialised. The Complaints Against Police system is now being handled by the police themselves. For the average citizen, even if they are assaulted and if they are treated badly, it seems they are not redressed properly because even if they take the complaint to somebody it is to no avail and they say that there is no evidence, something like that.

We know that some parts of the disciplined services, for example policemen were assaulted by the policemen themselves because they were having covert operations and they were treated as criminals; and also there are six customs officers who have been assaulted by the police and so they got a ruling from the courts. We think that the present system is not sufficient to protect the citizens' right.

Now you have a proposal saying that the IPCC will be made independent, that it will become a statutory body, and also you are going to revamp the approaches and procedures. But then it seems you are not touching upon the crux of the matter and that is the system of complaints against the police, that it is not independent. I think the crux is that you have to make it independent in order to tackle the problem. In the past, before the setting up of the ICAC, the police also resisted the inception of the ICAC because the police said they are not well versed with our work and so they have to investigate the complaints themselves and also it would deal a blow to police moral, etc. However, in the end when we have the ICAC we have proved that the police are a much cleaner force. So I am not only worried about corruption inside the police but other points also.

Presenter (in Chinese): The point is very clear, you want an independent complaints mechanism.

Question (in Chinese): I would like to ask the Governor why up to now he has not done anything in this regard? At least the CAPO or the head of the CAPO should at least be a person not from the police force. This is a recommendation of the United Nations. What does the Governor think about this?

Governor: First of all can I say that I think one should look at this problem in context. We have almost certainly the finest police force in Asia and I do not want to do or say anything which damages the morale of that police force at a sensitive time. But you are entirely right to say that where there are rotten apples, and there are in any organisation, there must be a credible organisation for dealing with them. I think we have increased the credibility of the Independent Police Complaints Council by making it statutory, by introducing new practices like taping and videoing of interviews and so on. I think that that should help to strengthen the credibility of the organisation which has to deal with complaints against the police and I am sure that the Commissioner would totally agree that that system has to have credibility.

I think there are arguments against having an independent head of CAPO. I do not think it would be very easy to find somebody really good who wanted to be head of an organisation of disciplined services who was put there precisely because many people outside thought the disciplined services could not be trusted to organise their own activities. I am not sure that would be a very good basis on which somebody could do the job. But I repeat that I accept that it is vitally important for us to ensure that the investigation of any complaints that there might be against the police has the greatest legitimacy and credibility possible, and I am sure the Commissioner and his senior officers would agree with that too.

Question: Good morning, Governor. My name is Jovel, I am a Filipino migrant worker. I would like to raise a concern about the Filipino workers here in Hong Kong as far as 1997 is concerned since I have been here for the past one-and-a-half year already and I really have not heard news about us here in Hong Kong as far as the JLG is concerned. And since 1997 is fast approaching I would like to know something about what will happen to us here and also ask, we Filipinos here are the single mass largest foreign community here and according to what I heard in the newspaper you would like Hong Kong people to be the best employers of Filipinos abroad. Would you like to comment about this.

Presenter: Just looking, really, for assurances Mr Patten, for domestic workers after 1997.

Governor: I think I identified the music as the theme music for Cinema Paradiso. Tell me if I am wrong. The Filipino community makes an enormous contribution to Hong Kong - 130,000 or so men and mostly women who make a terrific contribution to the family life of Hong Kong and to our overall economy. One of the things that they help in many cases is to ensure that both parents can go out to work and develop professional skills and earn a bit more money, so I think the Filipino community does a tremendous job here and I am sure that the reasons for the Filipino community doing that job before 1997 will continue to apply after 1997. The important thing to be clear about is that this will be a decision entirely for the SAR Government. It falls within the responsibilities of the SAR Government. It is a matter of immigration policy which is a matter for us exercising our local autonomy. And I do not imagine that a Chief Executive in my position, answering questions from you in 1998, is going to be saying anything different from what I have said this morning. But if there is any difference it is for him and his colleagues to decide, not for anybody outside to decide.

Now, we have had assurances on that from senior Chinese leaders. And people like President Ramos, and the Foreign Minister of the Philippines who I saw the other day, have both themselves raised it with Chinese leaders and had exactly the same assurance. So I can promise you that it will be a matter for the SAR Government after 1997 and I see no reason at all why the situation should change in the short or medium term. And as far as the long term is concerned, none of us know what will happen in the long term but I am sure that as the Philippine economy develops in the next few years, many more Filipinos will be employed at home.

Question (in Chinese): I have three questions regarding the civil service for the Governor. First of all would the Government do this for the middle-ranking and lower-ranking officers, that is whether you would give a questionnaire to ask them about whether they would stay beyond 1997?

Secondly, for retired civil servants, after 1997 what kind of pension would they receive? If the pension is going to be affected in any way, what can the British Government do for them?

Thirdly, what is the British attitude regarding retired civil servants before 1997 and people who retire after 1997? For these two different types of retired civil servants would you have different moral attitudes towards them? So those are the three questions for the Governor please.

Governor: Let me deal with them quite swiftly. First of all I am certainly prepared to consider the sort of questionnaire you mentioned, although I think it is fair to say that our Civil Service Branch will have ensured that line managers keep very closely in touch with opinion in the middle and lower ranks of the civil service to try to ensure that they know about people's commitment in the medium and long term. The fact of the matter is that there is a very low turnover in the civil service at the moment. The drop-out rate, for example, is at a historic low and I think that must be largely because people in the middle and lower ranks are staying, recognising that the civil service is a good and important career.

On the second question, there should be no difference at all. Let me repeat that, no difference at all to your pension or to any retired civil servant's pension after 1997. That commitment has been made clear in all the sacred texts, the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law and so on, and it has been underlined by people like Director Lu in Peking.

Thirdly, because of that I don't think it should make any difference at all whether you retire before '97 or after '97, I think you should be treated exactly the same. One of the important aspects of Hong Kong being promised that its way of life will continue is that the treatment of its public servants should be exactly the same and I think that is a commitment which any government will want to keep. Just in order to try to reassure people about that, we did put a large amount of money, several billion dollars, into a fund which we put on one side which can be used just in case there are any problems with civil servants pensions in the future but I don't expect there to be at all. This is a very rich community and it will be able to afford to pay its civil service pensions forever.

Question: This is, I suppose, a kind of personal question, if you don't mind, but not very personal. I wondered how you cope with the overwhelming sense of failure and frustration you must have in Hong Kong?

Governor: I don't find that at all. And as I go around the streets and as I go around on my district visits I am very encouraged by the buoyancy and the warmth and the encouragement that I get from everybody. I am also delighted that the last opinion poll I saw suggested I had a 62% approval rating. I remember what approval ratings used to be like in the United Kingdom, so I was pretty pleased about that. So I think this is a very difficult job and it is one that will remain difficult right down to the wire, but I think I will be judged by the extent to which I stood up for Hong Kong and stood up for the promises made to Hong Kong in the Joint Declaration.

Question: You are being judged now, you know, on Hong Kong, and I don't have much confidence in you. Don't you feel powerless and redundant increasingly?

Governor: No. Do you?

Question: No. I mean your record on the environment, you break promises about that, it hasn't come off. You said that everybody would be owning their own home by the time 1997 comes round, it hasn't happened.

Governor: No, no. When did I say that? When did I say that?

Question: You said that when you arrived.

Governor: No, I didn't. You don't have to tell fibs, come on.

Question: Anyway, okay. What about employment? We didn't have unemployment in Hong Kong before you arrived, now it's a serious problem.

Governor: Just tell me what it is?

Question: Let me finish. Most importantly, you've really let Beijing off the hook. As a professional politician you have let Beijing off the hook, you have let them walk away from the negotiating table and you have given them carte blanche to do anything they want after 1997. It's disgraceful.

Governor: I have not given them carte blanche. That is what a lot of people wanted me to do but I declined to do that and one of the results is that I think Hong Kong has a lot more sense of the importance of its own autonomy and a lot more self-confidence than it would otherwise have. I thought that your litany of capital charges, though delivered with a cheerfully gloomy voice, was ..

Question: Well it is not as cheerfully gloomy as yours.

Governor: ... was a trifle unfair. We have actually made significant progress in cleaning up air quality, though there is further to go. We have invested about nine billion in our sewage strategy which by 1997 will have reduced the pollution load in the harbour by about 70%. And as for employment - and I wonder if you know what the figures actually are; they went up to about 3.5%, they have been edging down to just over 3%, and one of the main reasons for that is that while we have been - and the last quarter's figures show this - while we have been increasing the creation of jobs by over 4%, the number of people coming into Hong Kong, both returning immigrants and legal immigrants from China, has gone up by slightly more than that, so we have been in the position where we have been creating more jobs but more people have been coming into Hong Kong.

When I look at the overall economy I see an economy which has increased by 25% pretty well, after allowing for the increase in prices since I arrived as Governor, and I am pretty pleased about that. But anyway, I am sorry we have not satisfied you on everything.

Question: You have not satisfied me and I hope you satisfy the future voters of Britain but I won't be there to enjoy your government.

Governor: Oh, I am sorry about that. I will greatly miss you.

Question: You should resign. Bye, bye.

Presenter: Thank you very much. I am sure the Governor is not going to resign on this special bilingual phone-in and I don't think you are even looking for votes in the UK, are you Mr Patten?

Governor: I am not but I think he had decided his view of history before he came on the line.

Question (in Chinese): My respected Governor, I like to give you this name but you will be a famous person down the ages. I thank you for standing up for human rights and the rule of law in Hong Kong, we really respect you. I can tell you this, well the sunset is beautiful but it is nearly night. Next year I hope you will invite me to the handover ceremony, I hope I will be a good friend of yours forever. When you return to Britain I hope that you will still speak up for Hong Kong. I really hope that I can shake your hand in 1997, I hope I will be invited. Can you hear me please?

Governor: I can and that is one of the nicest requests for a ticket I have ever heard. I must introduce you to the last caller, you would have a lot to talk about. Can I say straightaway that if you send us your name and address we will try to ensure that you are invited to one of the celebrations around the time of the hand over, because I would like to meet you. Oh, and that goes for your predecessor on the line as well if he is still listening rather than shaving, if he is still listening and sends us his name and address we would like to bury the hatchet and invite him too. But it would be very nice to meet you and thank you for what you said about human rights and the rule of law. They are the spine chord of our society in Hong Kong and we do have to go on speaking up for them and defending them.

Question: My name is Edward Stokes (phonetic). I would like to ask two specific questions - widely different areas - but I think they are linked and they are linked through the danger, perhaps, of Hong Kong placing economic growth above quality of life.

The first issue relates to the harbour and in fact ferry safety, which as a ferry traveller I notice, whatever the Marine Department may say, is in fact totally chaotic due to both reclamation and the vast growth of harbour traffic. What corrective steps is the government taking about the state of harbour safety? That is question one.

Governor: On question one, we are just, as you probably know, facing a bit of industrial action in the harbour precisely because of efforts that the Marine Department are taking to improve safety and improve the circumstances in which so much traffic every day passes through what is sometimes a turbulent channel. But I totally agree with you that we do have to ensure that we retain as good a safety record in the harbour as possible. If you have got any ideas or proposals about how we might do that I would be very happy to discuss them with the Marine Department. We do want to avoid any accident in the harbour because it would be calamitous for us, not least for our tourism.

Question: Right, well that is very welcome and I will send something on which relates to a very near massive disaster a week ago which is in correspondence at the moment with the ferry company.

The second question relates to the country parks. Hong Kong is a very, very beautiful place - just having come back from other parts of south-east Asia where one can see so many places where countryside has been lost, very, very beautiful places that can never be regained. How can it be, in a place as wealthy as Hong Kong - and you were rightly mentioning the \$9 billion being spent on a sewage scheme which is obviously very welcome - how can it be, in a place as wealthy as Hong Kong that the long promised extension to the North Lantau Country Park - a quick ... and a buffer for the airport and mentioned in the Chek Lap Kok EIA - how can it be that that is regularly refused on the grounds of lack of money when it would cost \$25 million? And this extends back for some five years, a plan proposed by the government's own Country Parks Board.

Governor: Two points there. First of all I totally accept what you said about the importance of the country parks in Hong Kong, the lungs of Hong Kong in a way. I find that when you take visitors to see any of our country parks they are absolutely astounded that Hong Kong is not only a busy, bustling urban community but it has also got places of the greatest beauty as well within a few miles of the city centre. I walk in the country parks quite a bit. I spent a weekend about two months ago walking across Lantau and had as great a walk as you could have had anywhere in the world.

Secondly, you are also right to say that because of the impact on the local environment, of the airport, we do have to try to make sure that the area around has an appropriate buffer. That goes for the water and the proposals for a marine park, and it goes for the land as well. I am sorry that I cannot give you a clear and specific answer on what has happened to the development of the park on the north of Lantau but having heard your impassioned plea, I will go back and find out and let you know. If you can leave your name and address with the telephonist I will ensure that you get a clear answer because I do accept what you said that it is important to conserve the beauty as much as possible of Lantau as well as develop the airport off its north coast.

Question (in Chinese): I hope that the Governor, before 1997, can really do more for us. First of all, I hope that the Governor, for the sake of maintaining the editorial autonomy of RTHK, I hope that it can be corporatised, that it can be made independent.

Secondly, I always go back to China and I can always see that the Public Security officials beat-up citizens. Well, this is not too much better in Hong Kong because the CAPO right now is such that the police would investigate into complaints against themselves. The Governor said that he has every intention to make the IPCC statutory. However, he is still unwilling to make it independent, that is to give it independent investigatory powers, so the situation may not been too much better.

Right now the police are investigating into complaints against themselves and it seems a lot of complaints just go down the drain and so people have no confidence in CAPO. It seems many people do not want to lodge their complaints because they think that it will be to no avail. So why don't you have something like the ICAC that you make the CAPO independent?

Presenter: There was a caller raising a similar question, Mr Law, who wanted an independent mechanism similar to the ICAC. Mr Governor, would you like to take the question on please, on RTHK first?

Governor: I will just say really what I said again on CAPO very briefly. The Complaints Commission is independent. We want to give it its statutory independence. The question is whether the head of CAPO, the organisation which investigates complaints, should be a civilian or not. I don't think there is a very strong - well, there is a strongly felt case for that - I don't think there is an overwhelmingly good argument for that. I think it would be very difficult to parachute a civilian in to lead a disciplined services organisation like that. I don't think it would put him in a very good position. What we want is an organisation which itself has maximum credibility and that is what we are determined to ensure is the case.

On RTHK, I don't myself think that whether or not you corporatise RTHK would have all that much impact on its independence, even though theoretically it would be more independent than it is in its present legal state. I think we have at the moment in RTHK an independent-minded, fair-minded organisation. Like the BBC in the UK it provides fair coverage of everybody's point of view and I hope that will continue after 1997. I am not sure how much difference it would make really whether it was corporatised. You can, I suppose, without being too provocative, think of media organisations in Hong Kong which are independent, which are private, but which do not perhaps provide as balanced a news presentation as RTHK.

Question: I do appreciate very much your fight for the democracy of Hong Kong and I also believe that you will be the last Governor of Hong Kong and will be the one to hand over Hong Kong to China. But I want to give you a very brief analogy. Please do not take offence. You have two daughters ...

Governor: Three.

Question: ... and without their wishes, will you be forcing them to get married to a criminal who has been killing a thousand-odd people a year? I don't think you would do that. But remember, you are going to hand over the people of Hong Kong to Communist China on June 30 next year against their will. Will you consider giving them a choice?

And another question is, I wish and I hope you become the Prime Minister of the UK in the future, and will you consider letting these people get the ... boat and ... in UK when you become the Prime Minister?

Governor: Let me deal very directly with that question and perhaps excessively honestly because I think you have expressed in a very clear way the moral dilemma which many people feel. Usually, when Britain has left a colony that colony has become an independent country. That option, because of the history of Hong Kong and China, was never available in Hong Kong, so we are in a situation in which a free society, as free as any society in Asia, is returning in 1997 to China - from which many citizens of Hong Kong have in the past fled - to China which has, despite the spectacular successes of the last few years, a different notion of freedom. That is why it is really important for us to make sure that the guarantees that were given in the Joint Declaration about one country, two systems are kept, there is a moral imperative on us to try to ensure that they were kept.

Some people say occasionally, "Oh, we must be pragmatic about it, we must be realistic about it; in 1997 whether or not the Joint Declaration is applied, is going to happen, we just have to get through without worrying too much about all these freedoms that are promised". I can't understand that argument. I think it is morally imperative that we stand up for all the things that you and others were promised when the Joint Declaration was presented to you in 1984. I am sure that 1997 will turn into a success. I think people in Hong Kong want it to be a success but they also want more reassurance that those freedoms which they value, which you value, will continue into the future.

Now as for my future, I am not, honestly, thinking beyond 30 June 1997. When I arrived here four years ago people said, "Oh, he won't stay, he will just do a year or two", and some of my critics said, "He will just put on a show and then he will be off to do something else". I said when I arrived that I would stay, God willing, until 30 June 1997. I will be here until 30 June 1997 and until 30 June 1997 I will continue to be answering questions, as I have your question this morning.

As for later, heaven knows what will happen to me but I think I will deserve a rest and there are lots of other very good people in Britain who would make much better prime ministers than me.

Question (Mr Cheung) (in Chinese): Mr Governor, recently, at the Summit for the Employment for the Disabled you have done a lot for people. But I am blind, I do not have vision, I have great difficulties in finding a job; even if I have the academic qualifications I can't get a job. I would like to propose to the Governor - I really hope that you can do this - that the telephone-operators in the government should be people like me who are without vision. We do not want to be a burden to society, we want to contribute to society.

Governor: Can I answer that question as positively as possible, but it is not quite as easy as in a sense you made it sound. My first point is that disabled people deserve to be helped to get a job. But it is not a question of doing them a favour. Any employer who takes on somebody who has got a disability but is committed and hardworking is doing themselves a favour. They are helping themselves by employing somebody who is going to be committed to their organisation and going to do an outstanding job. So I think we want to stop thinking about employment for the disabled as though we are handing out charity. We are not. We are ensuring that people with real abilities can contribute those abilities to the rest of society.

We have had three summits to try to push employers and government into doing more and we have had some success. Last year, despite the difficulties on the employment front, we I think placed through government services about 1,400 more people with a disability, we have gradually increased the number who are employed in government. It is now up to about 4,200, and we have had a voluntary target for the community which we exceeded last year, we got up to 550, and we have set a new target for 700. The private sector varies enormously, some people are very good, some people, frankly, do not put enough into it, working in exactly the same sector. So I think everybody has got to make an effort.

Now you mention - which is why I said it is not quite as easy as it might have sounded - you mention the position of the blind working as telephonists. We know a bit about this, we have somebody very close to us in Government House who is in that position. But what has been happening is that modern technology has very often put out of jobs blind people who have taken jobs as telephonists and what we then have to do is to try to ensure that they are retrained to do some other job which they are capable of. So while there is still room for quite a lot of people with sight disability in working as telephonists, we should not think that in the long term, with changes in technology, that is going to be, as it were, a secure area. It is imperative that we give people more retraining - the blind, the mentally-handicapped, the mentally-ill - so that they can contribute as much as they have got to the rest of society.

Question: My name is Tony James (phonetic). I just find it disturbing, listening to this morning's activities, that there are certainly some people in HK who tend to criticise the existing freedom of the press that we certainly enjoy, and the government initiatives, certainly that have been done since '84, and I guess in particular yourself - the criticism of yourself. But yet I wonder what their comments will be like in four-and-a-half years time when the new CE of the SAR has completed four years, and I just wonder if the new CE, when he or she has finished his four year term, whether they will certainly be sitting in RTHK fielding questions. And I guess - and it is not a question - it is quite advantageous to have the ability to have hindsight and look back at some of the things that have or have not been achieved. But certainly I do find it disturbing that people can criticise without necessarily knowing what our future holds.

Governor: I very much hope that my successor, whoever she or he may be, will also agree with me that accountability to the public is important which is why I do phone-ins like this. And it makes me think that perhaps I should do more because there is a huge backlog of callers I think this morning.

But there has only been one caller that - well two I think; one early on who phoned us up from Happy Valley and one a bit later - there have only been two people who have been critical. They have got every right to be critical, I just hope that they won't feel inhibited in four-and-a-half years time in expressing their views in an identically similar way. I find that comparing British politics with Hong Kong politics, people in Hong Kong are far more civil, far more moderate. Political debate tends to lack the extremes which you find in Europe or North America. And that is one reason why I think that if Chinese officials could just relax a bit, they would recognise that people in Hong Kong, politicians in Hong Kong, are not a threat, not even those who travel up to Peking with valid travel documents.

Question (Miss Lai) (in Chinese): You are our colonial official and it seems, being Chinese, I should not praise you in the open but I can tell you my dilemma. The performance of Chinese officials is very disappointing, they are calling you names. Now at this time, well I think Hong Kong people are to be pitied at this critical juncture. Now, they said that in the handover ceremony, well, you may not be there. I think this is not to make you unhappy but rather we are made unhappy as Hong Kong people, I think they are being too parsimonious.

Governor: I can assure you that I will be there at the handover ceremony - God willing - and I am sure that everybody will behave with exquisite courtesy. It is extraordinary that one should even think that leading officials should consider behaving other than courteously. But there it is. I have never really been worried about the names I have been called. I'll tell you why. Because in my experience in public life, if people call you names it means they have not got a very good argument. If they have got a good argument they can be sure that just deploying it will completely demolish you. They only actually call you names if they haven't got a decent argument. So I really regard that as a sign of success for Hong Kong because what I have been putting is Hong Kong's point of view, not my own. I have been putting the promises that were made to the people of Hong Kong and which reflect, I still believe, the aspirations of people in Hong Kong.

End

Final accounts for 1995-96 published

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The Government's final accounts for the financial year 1995-96, which ended on March 31 were published today (Friday) in the Gazette.

Total expenditure for the year was \$183.1 billion, almost exactly in line with the revised estimate of \$183.2 billion given in the 1996 Budget Speech. Total revenue was \$180 billion against a revised estimate of \$180.7 billion. As a result, the overall deficit for 1995-96 was \$3.1 billion.

A government spokesman said: "The shortfall in revenue of \$0.7 billion, or 0.4%, was made up of a number of pluses and minuses.

"Receipts from earnings and profits tax and from fees and charges were lower than anticipated in the first quarter of 1996.

"This was offset, in part, by higher than anticipated receipts from stamp duty following the increased activity in both the stock and property markets in the same period."

The spokesman pointed out that the Government had drawn on the reserves in 1995-96 when investment in the Airport Core Programme was at a peak and as a result the total fiscal reserves amounted to \$147.9 billion as at March 31.

End

Government response to Manpower Panel Enquiry Report

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The Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, issued the following statement in response to the report published by the Panel on Manpower of the Legislative Council this (Friday) morning on 'Enquiry into the circumstances surrounding the labour disputes involving imported workers under the Special Labour Importation Scheme for the Airport Core Programme Projects (ACP) and related issues':

"I received a copy of the Report this morning and would need time to study it carefully before giving a considered response on its findings and recommendations.

I am pleased to note that the report has made full reference to the comprehensive package of measures initiated by the Government since the outbreak of labour disputes late last year to improve the operation, and to strengthen the monitoring, of the Special Labour Importation Scheme for the New Airport Projects.

"As a result of these measures, the overall situation has improved significantly. Labour disputes involving imported workers under the ACP scheme are no longer a problem.

"However, we will continue to step up our efforts in monitoring the scheme closely to ensure its smooth operation. Meanwhile, all the previous labour disputes have been resolved.

"Over the past few months, the Government has also established close working links with those countries which export workers to Hong Kong for the ACP projects. In particular, we have forged a rapport with the relevant authorities in China.

"Arrangements have now been put in place to ensure that the interests of Chinese workers in the territory are well protected under the laws of Hong Kong".

End

Draft code of practice under discrimination laws discussed

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The Equal Opportunities Commission considered it unfortunate that the public was led to believe that an undiscussed internal preliminary working draft of a code of practice under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance presented to a working group meeting, which needs much re-writing, represented the position of the Commission.

The Commission assured the public that any draft codes of practice would be thoroughly examined and debated within the Commission before it was released for public consultation.

During the process, it was the primary objective of the Commission to lay down guidelines which promote fair and lawful employment practices under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (SDO) and Disability Discrimination Ordinance.

The Commission's working group preparing the Code of Practice on Employment under SDO has discussed today (Friday) an internal preliminary working draft of the Code.

The Working Group had thoroughly considered the preliminary draft and felt that many parts of it needs rewriting, including the part on personal appearance.

Specifically, the Working Group considered that the following guidelines should be laid down in respect of personal appearance:

- * the policies should be reasonable having regard to the occupational requirement and the changing social norms; and
- * the policies should be applied in a fair and evenhanded manner on all employees in that no detrimental effects will be imposed on a particular group of employees in complying with the policies.

The Commission plans to start consulting with the employment sector and concern groups on the codes in August.

With the input from these relevant organisations and bodies, the revised code will be published for general consultation with the public in October.

Thereafter, the Commission aims to introduce the codes to the Legislative Council for approval in November so as to enable the employment-related provisions of the two ordinances to take effect before the end of the year.

End

New vehicle emission and motor fuel standards introduced

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The Government is to introduce two new regulations to effect the upgrading of vehicle emission standards and the quality of motor fuel in line with latest international trends so as to improve emissions from motor vehicles for the abatement of air pollution.

They are the Air Pollution Control (Vehicle Design Standards) (Emission) (Amendment) Regulation 1996 and the Air Pollution Control (Motor Vehicle Fuel) (Amendment) Regulation 1996 made by the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, which are published in the Gazette today (Friday).

A spokesman for the Planning, Environment and Lands Branch said in the "Second Review of the White Paper: Pollution in Hong Kong - A Time to Act" published in 1993, the Government proposed, inter alia, a series of measures to tackle air pollution from motor vehicles.

The new regulations fully implement the measures to exercise more stringent emission standards for large diesel vehicles and the requirement to use higher quality automotive diesel.

"In October 1996, the European Union will implement more stringent emission standards for motor vehicles. Hong Kong will take the opportunity to require newly registered vehicles to adopt, with effect from April 1, 1997, these upgraded emission standards and other appropriate requirements of USA and Japan," the spokesman said.

From the effective date, a complimentary clean fuel will be available for use by advanced motor vehicle engines.

"For unleaded petrol, the major improvements to be specified will reduce the maximum lead content from 0.013 grams per litre to 0.005 per litre and limit the maximum benzene content to 5% by volume.

"For motor vehicle diesel, the maximum sulphur content will be reduced as specified to 0.20% by weight to 0.05%," he added.

The new emission standards will reduce particulate emissions from individual large diesel vehicles by about 60%. Nitrogen oxides emissions will also be reduced by about 10%.

"These reductions will help arrest further deterioration of the air quality in Hong Kong, particularly the serious problem of particulate pollution caused by diesel vehicles," the spokesman noted.

"However, it will do no more than maintain respirable suspended particulate and nitrogen oxides concentrations at their present unacceptable levels.

"Only with the additional breakthrough of requiring half the diesel fleet to use unleaded petrol or a similar clean fuel can there be any prospect of meeting the Air Quality Objectives for these two criteria air pollutants."

The oil suppliers, Motor Traders' Association and the transport trades have all been consulted on these measures who are generally supportive and in particular, transport trades will not object to the regulations provided that motor fuel and vehicles meeting the upgraded requirements are available without drastic increases in costs.

Environmental Protection Department estimates that the new measures will only have a negligible effect on the retail price of unleaded petrol whereas the retail price of motor diesel will increase by 3% or \$0.2 per litre.

The amendments will affect newly registered vehicles only. EPD estimates that some vehicle models are already able to meet the new emission requirements and no cost increase will thus be incurred.

For models which require modifications, there may be an increase in retail price by up to 10%.

The spokesman said the Government was still working on proposals for higher penalties and strengthened inspection programmes as further measures to tackle air pollution from motor vehicles.

In the light of the public's comments and views, the Government is also reviewing the proposed scheme to replace diesel vehicles of four tonnes or less with unleaded petrol ones. For the time being, the existing emission standards will continue to apply to them.

End

HK's role outweighs its size in international trade

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Hong Kong punches well above its weight in the various international trade and economic fora because of some particular strengths and a clear sense of purpose, the Director-General of Trade, Mr Tony Miller, said today (Friday).

"Our first great strength lies in our unshakeable faith in a relatively simple economic philosophy. We preach a simple gospel: free trade and the rule of law," Mr Miller said.

"The first is easy enough to explain: our version is no tariffs, no quotas, no exceptions. The second, the rule of law, is shorthand for the essentially democratic rule-based post-war trading system, originally under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and now the World Trade Organisation (WTO)."

Mr Miller was addressing the Lions Club of Hong Kong (Host) on "Hong Kong's Role in International Trade Negotiations". It was his last public speech as Director-General of Trade before he takes up his new post as Director of Housing later this month.

The Director-General said Hong Kong's second great strength lies in the degree to which its faith for free trade and the rule of law was shared throughout the community.

"Government's belief in giving market forces free rein goes straight to Hong Kong's origins. Business stands firmly behind us in this belief.

"The wider community's spirit of self-reliance and direct experience of the prosperity which has flowed from practising what we preach provides a constant reaffirmation of our faith," Mr Miller said, adding that few governments could boast such united support for basic economic policies.

Mr Miller said its third great strength was the quality of staff posted to Hong Kong's overseas offices and to the Trade Department, their professionalism and enthusiasm in defending its trading interests overseas and their efficiency in administering its trade controls at home.

"Our fourth great strength is that other trading partners recognise the first three in our negotiating style. They know that we speak our minds. They know that we know our trade theology," Mr Miller continued.

"They know that we fight fiercely in defence of principle. They know that we are pragmatic problem solvers. They know also from experience not to confuse this latter constructive approach to compromise with any weakness on matters of fundamental importance.

"They know that, on technical matters, we are more than merely proficient. Finally, they know that we are creative drafters and that our pens are always at the service of those in search of imaginative solutions."

According to Mr Miller, the fifth strength of Hong Kong is the way that it is poised between the developed and the developing world.

"This may puzzle some people. Take one look at our sky-line, our streets, our shopping malls and concert halls and you know that Hong Kong is a developed not a developing economy. And yet in the twisted logic of trade relations, we are de facto developing," he said.

"This is not exactly of our own choosing, rather this is the way the developed world treats us. Developed countries do not impose restraints on exports of textiles and clothing from fellow developed countries. They do on Hong Kong.

"I say this with no rancour. I say it simply to underline that the scars we bear give us an instinctive sympathy for the underdogs in the developing world and their needs and aspirations.

"As a developed economy with recent memories of what it is like to be developing, we have a natural role as middle-man and honest broker. From this flows a certain standing and an ability to influence the outcome of negotiations which we would not otherwise enjoy."

Mr Miller said what made Hong Kong different was that as determined free traders, Hong Kong had a very clear view of what it wanted to achieve.

"As beneficiaries of the liberal post-war trading system, we have a very clear view of how we want world trade to operate," he said.

"We see ourselves very much as the conscience of the GATT/WTO, vigilant in guarding against and exposing breaches of the rules, fierce in defence of our rights and of wider points of principle, determined to repair the damage done by abusive use of trade remedies, ready always to work with others in extending and perfecting the grand design.

"Above all, we see ourselves as a beacon, a beacon of free trade, shining out a promise of safe passage through the reefs and shoals of unfair trade, and a counter to the siren voices of protectionism.

"What gives us our edge is our sense of purpose."

End

Fees charged under two health laws to be revised

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The Government is to increase a number of fees under the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance and the Quarantine and Prevention of Disease (Scale of Charges) Regulations from November 1.

Announcing this today (Friday), a government spokesman said the fees were last revised in November 1994 and the revision this time aimed to recover the full cost of the services at 1995-96 prices.

"It is government policy that fees should in general be set at levels sufficient to cover the full cost of providing the services," he added.

The proposed increase are nine per cent for the fees in respect of the supplementary medical professions and four per cent to 23 per cent for the fees payable under the Quarantine and Prevention of Disease (Scale of Charges) Regulations.

The new fees are published in the Gazette today.

Revision of fees under the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance

	<u>Existing fee</u>	<u>Proposed fee</u>
Schedule 3 to the Medical Laboratory Technologists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations	\$	\$
Any alteration to the register under Section 10(2)	335	365
Restoration to the register under Section 10(5)	425	465
Registration under Section 13	1020	1115
Duplicate certificate of registration under Section 14(7)	260	285
Certificate of standing under Section 14A	520	570
Certificate verifying registration under Section 14A	395	432
Provisional registration under Section 15	985	1075
Practising certificate issue under Section 16	355	390
Schedule 3 to the Occupational Therapists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations	\$	\$
Any alteration to the register under Section 10(2)	335	365
Restoration to the register under Section 10(5)	425	465
Registration under Section 13	1020	1115
Duplicate certificate of registration under Section 14(7)	260	285
Certificate of standing under Section 14A	520	570
Certificate verifying registration under Section 14A	395	432
Provisional registration under Section 15	985	1075
Practising certificate issue under Section 16	355	390
Schedule 3 to the Radiographers (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulation	\$	\$
Registration under Section 13	1020	1115
Provisional registration under Section 15	985	1075
Practising certificate issue under Section 16	355	390
Duplicate certificate of registration under Section 14(7)	260	285
Restoration to the register under Section 10(5)	425	465
Certificate of standing under Section 14A	520	570
Certificate verifying registration under Section 14A	395	432

Revision of fees under the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance

	<u>Existing fee</u>	<u>Proposed fee</u>
	\$	\$
Schedule 3 to the Optometrists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulation		
Registration under Section 13	1020	1115
Provisional registration under Section 15	985	1075
Practising certificate issue under Section 16	355	390
Duplicate certificate of registration under Section 14(7)	260	285
Restoration to the register under Section 10(5)	425	465
Certificate of standing under Section 14A	520	570
Certificate verifying registration under Sec 14A	395	432

Schedule 3 to the Quarantine and Prevention of Disease (Scale of Charges) Regulations
(Cap 141 sub. leg)

	<u>Existing fee</u>	<u>Proposed fee</u>
	\$	\$
For the issue of a deratting certificate	11140	11620
For the issue of a deratting exemption certificate	1790	1940
For supervision during disinsecting an aircraft and certification	595	735
For the issue of a bill of health	80	96

End

More sites checked by factory inspectors

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More than 110 factory inspectors of the Labour Department engaged in the territory-wide special industrial safety operation checked 384 more construction sites in the past week, bringing the total number of sites visited to 868 since June 21.

The latest round of intensive inspections resulted in the issue of 99 summonses against building contractors for breaching industrial safety laws.

The total number of summonses to be issued under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance has increased from 168 in the first week to 267 up to yesterday (Thursday).

The special task force comprising 10 factory inspectors inspected 45 sites in the second week and recommended the issue of 31 summonses.

Another 100 factory inspectors involved in the special inspection exercise on working at height and in confined spaces checked 339 more sites and recommended the issue of 68 summonses.

Commenting on the inspection statistics, Chief Factory Inspector (Operations), Mr Tse Ming-sing, said today (Friday) that the overall safety situation in construction sites inspected so far was acceptable, though some 163 sites or one fifth of the 868 sites inspected would be prosecuted.

He said in the second week of operation, the sites selected were more scattered and the proprietors and contractors were a lot more responsive to government's call for better site safety conditions.

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

The Chief Factory Inspector said the special inspection exercise would be extended for one more week.

"Extending our special operation will give us more time to check whether sites found to be in unsatisfactory safety conditions in the first two weeks have managed to make improvements.

"Our factory inspectors will also re-inspect some of the other sites to see if their safety conditions remain satisfactory," he said.

"Factory inspectors have been told not to tolerate contractors and workers who have failed to take safety measures in building sites."

During these blitz operations, the inspectors will hand out pamphlets on working at height and confined spaces to workers and site staff to alert them of the necessary precautions and the 24-hour industrial safety hotline 2815 0678.

"We will take follow-up action on each and every call. Prosecutions will also be initiated if contravention of industrial safety legislation is detected during our investigations," Mr Tse added.

End

Three bays designated as marine parks and reserve

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The marine parks at Hoi Ha Wan, Yan Chau Tong and the Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve have been designated following the approval of the draft maps by the Governor-in-Council last month.

A spokesman for the Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) said the designation of these parks and reserve would enable ecologically important marine areas to be protected under the Marine Parks Ordinance.

The Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, as the Country and Marine Parks Authority (Authority), will manage these areas for the purposes of nature conservation, education, research and environmental enhancement, the spokesman said.

The Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park is a sheltered bay on the northern coastline of Sai Kung which covers a sea area of about 260 hectares. Thirty-nine of the 49 local coral species recorded can be found within the area while marine invertebrates new to science have also been discovered there.

The Yan Chau Tong Marine Park consists of Yan Chau Tong and an indented bay outside Lai Chi Wo, with a sea area of about 680 hectares. A wide variety of beach types and a diverse assemblage of marine habitats and communities can be found. There are also fringing coral reefs, star fish and beds of sea grass in the area.

Located at the southern tip of Hong Kong Island, the Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve covers a sea area of about 20 hectares. It is an area of high biological, geomorphological and geological interests.

The spokesman said public consultation on the proposal to designate marine parks and marine reserves had been conducted since 1991. Meetings were held with relevant advisory boards or committees, working groups and associations.

An order designating the area shown on the approved maps on Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park, Yan Chau Tong Marine Park and Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve was published in the Gazette today (Friday).

The new maps are now available for public inspection at the AFD headquarters, the Land Registry, Sai Kung New Territories Land Registry, Tai Po New Territories Land Registry, North New Territories Land Registry and the Marine Department headquarters.

End

Green light for Castle Peak Road improvement works

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The Governor-in-Council has authorised the improvement works to Castle Peak Road from Siu Lam to So Kwun Tan without modification.

The authorisation is published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

The project is mainly to widen the section of Castle Peak Road between Siu Lam and So Kwun Tan from the existing one-lane each-way to a dual two-lane carriageway.

It also includes the construction of a road bridge over So Kwun Wat River, a footbridge near Fiona Garden, and associated pavement, slopework, retaining walls, drainage and landscaping works, as well as noise mitigation works.

The works are expected to commence in November for completion in 27 months.

End

Electric company's proposal still being studied

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In response to enquiries on a newspaper report today (Friday), a spokesman for the Economic Services Branch said that the Government had not taken any decision on the proposal by the Hongkong Electric Company Limited to build additional generating capacity.

"The Company's proposal is still being studied by the Government," he said.

End

Findings on calling number display service published

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The Telecommunications Authority today (Friday) published a statement on the public consultation on calling number display (CND) and has made proposals on the implementation of the service in Hong Kong.

The service, which enables the receiver of a call to know the number of line from which the call is being made before he or she actually answers it, is now available in a number of overseas countries.

"We believe that it should also be available to Hong Kong telephone users, such that receivers of calls may be in a better position to decide whether to accept an incoming telephone call or not," the spokesman said.

CND is known to have a deterrent effect on nuisance calls and can be a key to emergency rescue if the caller is unable to identify his exact location. The previous public consultation has indicated wide public support for the service to be introduced in Hong Kong.

"We have, nonetheless, not overlooked legitimate concerns of callers about their telephone number being displayed automatically to receivers of the calls," said the spokesman.

An inherent part of the proposal will be a requirement for the network operators to provide free CND blocking services to all telephone users such that a caller may choose to transmit his number or not.

The operators will also have to comply with a Code of Practice in the provision of the service to ensure that information relating to telephone numbers are being handled properly.

The Telecommunications Authority intends to formally approve the service later this year.

Copies of the statement may be obtained from the Office of the Telecommunication Authority's public enquiry centre at 29th floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, the office's Internet homepage (<http://www.ofta.gov.hk>) or its Bulletin Board Service on 2834 1109.

End

Prison industry to adapt more business-like approach

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The Correctional Services Department (CSD) has streamlined the operation and management of its Correctional Services Industries (CSI) to adapt to a more business-like approach in view of increasing pressures to compete in the changing environment of market demands, the Commissioner of Correctional Services, Mr Raymond Lai Ming-kee, said today (Friday).

Speaking at a lunch meeting of the Rotary Club of Causeway Bay, Mr Lai said CSD ran the largest government-owned industrial operation in the territory and CSI had a commercial value of around \$400 million per annum.

CSI employs over 7,600 people, about 7,300 are inmates of the 21 penal institutions sprawled throughout the territory. In fact, its products are familiar to everyone - such as uniforms for nurses, shoes for the police, letter boxes for postmen.

"Every time you walk on the pavement, drop a piece of paper in a litter bin, look at a road sign to find where you are going, or smash your car into a railing, you are encountering CSI made products," Mr Lai said.

The Commissioner pointed out that CSI was not in the business to make money.

"Rather than make money, we save money for Government by producing goods which would otherwise have to be bought commercially, at a much greater cost," he said.

"CSI's primary purpose is to assist the management of institutions by eliminating the biggest threat - boredom. In the process, we hope we can inculcate useful working habits which will help the inmate on release, and encourage him or her to lead a law abiding life," he said.

In clarifying a misconception that CSI might be taking jobs away from the local jobmarket, Mr Lai said over 99 per cent of what CSI made went to the Government or quasi-government bodies.

"In addition, almost all the industrial operations carried out by CSI involve products which are not otherwise made in Hong Kong. Who else makes concrete slabs and kerbstones? Who else makes fibreglass litter bins?" he asked.

Mr Lai noted that another misconception, one which had become increasingly of concern in the last few years, was one of human rights.

"Is using prison labour in this way tantamount to forced labour, and therefore a violation of human rights? Again, I have to answer no," he said.

"The use of prisoners for labour is permitted under the 1957 Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labour, provided that the jobs and conditions are no degrading or cruel. I would rate the working conditions in CSI superior to some prisons of our critics overseas.

Another subject which often came up when discussing prison industries was the charge that exports were, in some cases, subsidised by prison made products, the Commissioner said.

"A typical example of this is a line of denim clothing very popular in Japan. Marketed as being made by murderers, rapists and the like, it goes under the brand name 'Prison Blues'.

"Made in Hong Kong? No, CSI does not export. Made in China? Actually, no. 'Prison Blues' are made in Oregon, USA," Mr Lai said.

The Commissioner said the circumstances under which CSI operated had been described as a businessman's dream - captive markets, cheap and plentiful labour, low costs, no need to make a profit and no shareholders to answer to.

"Unfortunately, it is not all a bed of roses. Take our labour supply for example - yes, we have plentiful supply of cheap labour, especially in these days of prison overcrowding, but we have no control over our supply.

"We cannot hire and fire, retain key staff or even lay off excess workers. Furthermore, most of our workforce really does not want to be our workforce for obvious reasons.

"Motivation is very difficult and as a result quality has tended to suffer. CSI products had a reputation for poor workmanship, late delivery and unreliability. But like many a monopoly, we had no incentive to improve our service - we had a captive market.

"In the last couple of years, this apparently cosy situation has been shaken up. As more and more government departments became public authorities, such as the Hospital Authority, or became trading funds, such as the Post Office, our captive market began to break free.

"Once these organisations no longer had to buy from CSI, our market began to contract," Mr Lai said.

The Commissioner said serious steps were taken to listen to customers and to take notice of what they were saying.

"We established quality inspections and improved training and machinery. We have also recently begun to hold stocks of finished goods to help us smooth out fluctuations in demand and reduce complaints of slow or late delivery.

"We have installed a computerised manufacturing and materials control system to provide essential information about current situations in our workshops and material stores," he said.

Mr Lai said although these were initial steps, there had already been tangible results with complaints from customers down.

"We even have satisfied customers and we can now enter competitive tenders and win them," he said.

The Commissioner noted with some irony that despite CSI not being a business in the sense that people understand the term, it had had to become more businesslike to survive.

"Though employment of prisoners, not profits and dividends, are our 'bottom line' we have recognised that if we do not give the customer what he wants, when he wants it at a price he finds reasonable, we will lose customers.

"And if we lose customers, we do not get sufficient job orders to employ prisoners. In other words, we face the same pressures to compete, and the same reasons for doing it, as every other commercial and industrial organisation in Hong Kong," Mr Lai said.

End

Laying of submarine cable systems at Lantau Island

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Authorisation has been given for the Hong Kong Telecommunication Limited to lay four submarine cables at Tong Fuk, Lantau Island.

The project aims at providing more international channel capacity to meet the rapid growth in international traffic demand.

Works will start this month for completion by the end of October. They will be carried out within an area of about 360 hectares of foreshore and sea-bed starting from Tong Fuk Beach southwards to Hong Kong border.

The extent of the area affected is described in a notice published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

Any person who considers that his interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and sea-bed involved will be injuriously affected may deliver a written claim for compensation to the Director of Lands before July 5, 1997.

He should state in his submission the sum of money which he is willing to accept in full and final settlement of his claim and should submit such particulars which he possesses to substantiate his claim.

The notice (in both English and Chinese) together with the related plan can be seen at the Lands Department's Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong (where copies can be purchased on order), the Islands District Office, 20th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, and Mui Wo Sub-office of the Islands District Office, ground floor, Mui Wo Government Offices, 2 Ngan Kwong Wan Road, Mui Wo, Lantau Island.

End

PTA study parent education in China

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More than 300 representatives from Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA) will have a chance to learn about parent education in China at a symposium tomorrow (Saturday).

The second PTA symposium - Parent education in China - is an annual event organised by the Committee on Home-School Co-operation to provide PTA representatives with opportunities to share experiences on various home-school subjects.

The Deputy Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joshua Law, and the Chairman of the Committee on Home-School Co-operation, Mr Tik Chi-yuen, will officiate at the symposium.

Two keynote speakers from China are the Deputy Division Chief of the National Education Commission of China, Ms Liu Jiangping, and a member of the Committee on Family Education in Guangdong province, Ms Liang Xuezheng.

Professor Wong Chung-kwong from the Department of Psychiatry, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, will share experience of parent education in Hong Kong.

End

Consultation forums on language benchmarks to be held

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The Task Force on Benchmarking established under the Advisory Committee on Teacher Education and Qualifications (ACTEQ) will hold two public forums next week to solicit views from the teaching profession, school sponsors and the public on language benchmarks for teachers.

The sessions will be presided by the Chairman of the Task Force, Professor Felice Lieh Mak.

The consultants commissioned by the Task Force to study benchmarks for English language teachers in lower secondary forms; teachers of Putonghua and teachers using Chinese as the medium of instruction in primary schools, will also brief the audience and answer questions.

Professor Lieh Mak said the Task Force and the consultants would like to hear the views and comments of teachers, educationalists and the public before the consultants finalising the recommendations.

The first session will be held on Monday (July 8) from 6 pm to 8 pm at Lok Sin Tong Wong Chung Ming Secondary School, 161 Lok Sin Road, San Po Kong, Kowloon. It will be followed by a second session from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm on Tuesday (July 10) at Morrison Hill Technical Institute, 6 Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai.

Professor Lieh Mak also called on headmasters, teachers and educational organisations to send in their written comments if they could not find time to attend the forum.

Written submission should be addressed to the Secretary, Task Force on Benchmarking, at Room 920, West Wing, Central Government Offices, Lower Albert Road.

The Task Force was set up in January in response to a recommendation of the Education Commission Report No 6 to language benchmarks for teachers as one of the measures to improve the language standard of students.

End

Exhibition and seminars on Target Oriented Curriculum

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A three-day exhibition and a series of seminars on Target Oriented Curriculum (TOC) will be held at the Hong Kong Teachers' Centre from next Tuesday (July 9) to July 11.

Entitled "Collaboration: Key to Implementing Target Oriented Curriculum", the function is organised by the Education Department's Curriculum Development Institute to encourage collaboration between parents, teachers, schools, Education Department and academics in implementing TOC.

The Vice Principal of the TOC Assessment Unit, Mr Sou Hon-poo, noted that so far, more than 900 teachers from 180 schools had applied for some 2,600 seats of the 12 seminars.

Academics and experts will deliver speeches on TOC assessment and professional development of teachers while school heads and teachers will share their experiences in implementing TOC in those seminars.

Speakers from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Institute of Education will give keynote speeches on 'Designing assessment tasks for English Language within the TOC framework', 'Teachers' competence in enabling the Implementation of TOC' and 'Communicating Students' Learning'.

Experience sharing session on various aspects on TOC including school-based tailoring, teachers' perspective, team building and impact on teachers will be held.

"Teaching and learning materials from the TOC Phase I schools, TOC packages from publishers and resource materials from other countries practising similar curricula will be displayed at the exhibition," Mr Sou added.

Interested parties are welcome to visit the exhibition which will be open to the public at the Hong Kong Teachers' Centre, 4 Pak Fuk Road, North Point, between July 9 and 11 from 9 am to 4.45 pm. A pre-exhibition will be held on July 8.

Further enquiries should be directed to the TOC Resource Centre on 2762 0420.

End

Avid readers awarded prizes

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More than 80 students from Hong Kong's primary and secondary schools today (Friday) received prizes at an Education Department presentation ceremony in recognition of their achievements in extensive English reading.

Among the participants, 14 "best readers" have each read more than 100 books in the 1995-96 school year.

The Hong Kong Extensive Reading Scheme in English (HKERS) is an Education Department initiative aimed at promoting reading habits among students and improving their English proficiency through reading.

Some 75,000 students from 139 secondary and 41 primary schools in Hong Kong took part in the scheme in the 1995-96 school year. Seventy-seven other schools are joining in September.

HKERS was introduced in secondary schools in September 1991 and extended to primary schools in the 1995-96 school year.

"It is our plan to extend the Scheme to about 40 primary schools every year," the Deputy Director of Education, Mr T F Kwan, said.

"A significant feature of the primary reading programme is the inclusion of information books to cater for different learner styles.

"Some students can read about facts and information on topics they are interested in, while others may enjoy reading story books of adventures, animals, fairy tales, and so on."

Unlike the class library, the Scheme features books graded by level, with guidance provided by teachers to students on their reading.

Mr Kwan said HKERS was supplemented by an award scheme. This award scheme has now been renamed after its sponsor as the EPSON Foundation Reading Awards.

Also speaking at the ceremony, the Chairman of the Education Commission, Professor Rosie T T Young, welcomed extension of the Scheme to the primary sector.

She said the Scheme not only allowed children to learn the language in an enjoyable manner without too much conscious effort, but also enabled them to give expression to their imagination and creativity in creative writing and artwork.

When parents read with their children, it would bring their hearts even more closely together, she added.

End

Water cut in Sheung Shui

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Fresh and flushing water supply to some premises in Sheung Shui will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Monday (July 8) to 6 am the following day for waste detection work on watermains to be carried out.

The suspension affects all premises in the area bounded by San Fung Avenue, Lung Sum Avenue, Jockey Club Road and Tsun Fu Street in Shek Wu Hui.

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	1,953	0930	+4
Closing balance in the account	1,955	1000	+4
Change attributable to :		1100	+4
Money market activity	+2	1200	+4
LAF today	NIL	1500	+4
		1600	+2

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.5 *+0.1* 5.7.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.21	2 years	2805	6.30	100.09	6.34
1 month	5.19	3 years	3904	6.30	99.20	6.72
3 months	5.26	5 years	5106	7.23	100.03	7.35
6 months	5.47	7 years	7305	7.60	100.45	7.65
12 months	5.78	5 years	M502	7.30	99.68	7.52

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$11,756 million

Closed July 5, 1996

End