



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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New SWD unit to promote sheltered workshop productivity

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The Social Welfare Department is actively involved with the setting up of a marketing and resource unit under the guidance of an advisory committee to co-ordinate marketing issues for sheltered workshops.

This was stated today (Saturday) by the Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan, when he officiated at the Bazaar Opening Ceremony of the Parents' Association of the Mentally Handicapped Ltd in Sun Chui Estate, Sha Tin.

The committee, he said, consisted of civic minded and experience business professionals.

"We hope the unit will raise the productivity of sheltered workshops and also the earnings of individual workers.

"Coupled with that is the expansion of supported employment places totalling 360 at present," Mr Strachan said, adding that by March the number would go up to 590 and with a further 360 places next year.

He said the ultimate aim of rehabilitation was to assist people with disabilities to integrate into society as much as possible so that they could live as ordinary citizens.

"To achieve this, we must provide equal opportunities to them and at the same time enhance their independence through training and employment.

"In order to improve the overall training and employment prospects of people with a disability, a working party chaired by me was set up in 1994 to review the existing services and a report had been produced in July last year," he said.

Mr Strachan said one of the many recommendations of the report was to operate the sheltered workshop in a more business-oriented manner.

"The success of implementation of any rehabilitation service relies heavily on the support of the community," he stressed.

End

Trade Department's Performance Pledge for 1996

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The Trade Department today (Saturday) announced new pledges in its performance pledge programme for 1996 in a determined effort to providing a high-quality service to the public.

These new pledges are in respect of services rendered in connection with textiles control registration and the Textiles Trader Registration Scheme. Processing time for textiles control registration is further reduced from 30 minutes to 25 minutes while the turn around time for an amendment of textiles notification under the Textile Trader Registration Scheme is pledged to take no more than two clear working days.

Previously, no specific timing had been set for the latter and it sometimes took three to four days.

Announcing the new pledges, a spokesman for the department said these were the result of a review of the performance standards which the department conducted at the end of last year.

"Although the department has met all its performance pledges in 1995, we have included these two new initiatives in the 1996 pledge, having regard to staff's views, our record of compliance with the pledges, the operational procedures and the resources available," he said.

"In 1995, about 150 surveys were conducted at intervals randomly selected by computer to check whether the services provided by the department complied with the pledges. The compliance rate was found to be 100 per cent.

"During the same period, five substantiated or partly substantiated complaints were received as compared to 11 and three in 1993 and 1994. All complaints were properly followed up," he added.

The spokesman said the good result of the department in meeting its 1995 Performance Pledge could not have been achieved without the full co-operation and untiring effort made by its dedicated staff as well as the hard work of members of the department's Service Standards Committee, chaired by a directorate officer, in monitoring the performance of the standards set, reviewing the standards as necessary and supervising the handling of complaints.

With the assistance of a consultant and a research agency, the department has reviewed its customer service and conducted a survey on the textile traders, which account for approximately 70 per cent of the department's activities, with a view to identifying and meeting the customer needs.

The survey was completed at the end of 1995 and the department is examining the recommendations for appropriate follow-up action.

The spokesman said in order to meet the needs of the customers, it was important to listen to their views and enhance the understanding of each other. In this regard, the Customer Liaison Group (CLG) under a non-official chairman serves as a valuable bridge between the department and its customers.

Last year, CLG met four times and published four CLG newsletters through which more than 10,000 traders registered with the department were informed of CLG activities and the department's response to CLG's suggestions.

In addition to these, the department has organised staff training and staff motivation activities for front-line staff during the year to sustain their enthusiasm in providing better customer service. These included training courses in enquiry answering skills, experience sharing sessions, staff orientation programmes, quiz competition, "Booklet on 1996 Performance Pledge" cover design competition, election of staff for the "Best Staff Award" by traders.

"The department is also gearing up its facilities to meet the high service standards," the spokesman said.

"Following the installation of a multi-media touch screen enquiry system in 1994, the department's telephone system was upgraded in May last year to enable customers to get through the lines more easily. In addition, a voice interactive telephone enquiry system will be introduced later this month to further improve the department's telephone enquiry service.

"The department strives to achieve professional excellence and quality service. We welcome feedback and suggestions to help us serve our customers better and make our better best," the spokesman added.

The department's other performance standards and targets in 1996 are as follows -

"Instant" Service

Target queuing & processing time

Textiles export licences for samples to restrained markets))	
Textiles export licences for personal effect to all markets))	30 minutes, with 90% in 25 minutes (but a single application comprising more than 5 licences may take longer)
Special import/export licences (Textiles) Form 8b, 8c, 8d and 8e under the Special Export & Import Licensing (Textiles) Scheme))	

The queuing time is normally longer during peak hours (11.00 am - 12.30 pm & 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm) and on days immediately before and after a long holiday.

Service which takes longer to deliver	Target turnaround time (clear working days excluding day of receipt and day of issue)
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Textiles related services:

Textiles import licences)	2
Textiles export licences (Except for samples to restrained markets and personal effects to all markets))	2
Special export licences (Textiles) Form 8a under the Special Export and Import Licensing (Textiles) Scheme)	2
Textiles re-export licences)	2
Amendment and cancellation of textiles licences)	2

Expeditious issue of textiles) 24 hrs
licences)

Transfer of quota 7

Registration for Local) 3
Appointed Agent)

Certificate of registration for) 3
Textiles Trader Registration)

Replacement licences for import) 2
custom clearance)

Enquiries on quota balances 6

Other Matters:

Certified true copies 2

GSP Forms A 3

Outward processing arrangement 1

Local sub-contracting arrangement 2

Certificate of Origin 2

Certificate of Origin - processing 2

Expeditious issue of) 24 hrs
Certificate of Origin/Form A)
Import and export licences for) 1
reserved commodities)

Import and export licences for) 2
ozone depleting substances)

Import and export licences for strategic commodities)	3 days; longer for imports of certain sensitive products or exports to certain destinations
Import licences for radioactive substances and irradiating apparatus)	1
Factory registration)	14
Registration for Transhipment Cargo Exemption Scheme)	1 month

These targets are posted at each point of service and will be met provided there are no complications surrounding the application or the service requested.

End

Anti-rabies inoculation drive in fishing ports

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The Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) will launch a half-yearly dog inoculation drive in fishing ports next week to enable fishermen to have their dogs immunised against rabies.

Starting from Monday (February 5), AFD's mobile dog inoculation teams will go to the territory's fishing ports one after the other and make boat-to-boat visits between 10 am and 4 pm daily. The inoculation programme is as follows:

<u>Port</u>	<u>Date</u>
Sha Tau Kok	February 5
Aberdeen	February 5 - 6
Sam Mun Chai	February 6 - 7
Shau Kei Wan	February 7 - 8
Castle Peak Bay	February 8 - 9

Cheung Chau
Sai Kung

February 9 & 12
February 12 - 13

The drive, a regular exercise since 1980, is intended to help fishermen who find little time to take their dogs to an inoculation centre or a government kennel for inoculation.

An AFD acting senior veterinary officer, Dr Dick Rubira, said today (Saturday) that the drive was part of Government's continuing efforts to prevent the outbreak of rabies in Hong Kong.

"Hong Kong regained the rabies-free area status on July 10, 1989 by having successfully prevented the outbreak of any indigenous rabies case since July 10, 1987," Dr Rubira said.

Nevertheless, he stressed that rabies was a deadly disease transmissible from animals to human beings. Dogs on fishing vessels are particularly vulnerable because of their possible contacts with other animals outside Hong Kong.

"It is therefore important that fishermen's dogs are inoculated against rabies especially when there are reports of recent rabies outbreaks in neighbouring areas," he added.

Under the Rabies Ordinance, all dogs over five months old are required to be licensed and inoculated against rabies. Failure to do so will render the owner liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000.

End

Firing practice scheduled for two days in February

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Firing practice will take place at the Ha Tsuen/Castle Peak Range on two days this month (February). The public is advised not to enter the area when red flags are hoisted.

Following are the dates and times for the firing practice:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
February 23 (Friday)	From 8.30 am to 5 pm
February 29 (Thursday)	From 8.30 am to 5 pm

End

Fight-crime campaigns in the New Territories

* * * * *

A series of publicity activities to disseminate fight-crime and anti-drug messages will be held in Sai Kung, Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun districts tomorrow (Sunday).

The events are organised by the respective districts' respective fight-crime committees.

A newly produced CD comprising fight-crime theme songs and a specially-designed chess package to convey fight-crime messages will be launched at a carnival to be held at 2.30 pm at Po Tsui Park, Tseung Kwan O, Sai Kung.

Copies of the two publicity materials will be distributed free later to schools and community centres in the district as well as public libraries, tertiary education institutions and fight crime committees in the territory.

The carnival will also feature various song and dance performances, a dragon dance, game stalls and other entertainment activities.

Sai Kung District Officer, Mr Parrish Ng; Tsang Kwan O Division Commander, Mrs Kong Cheung Chi-lan; and Fight Crime Committee member, Mr Edward Pong; will attend the carnival's opening ceremony.

Meanwhile, Sha Tin District Officer, Ms Wong Mei-lin; Sha Tin District Commander, Mr Lee Chi-yuen; and Sha Tin District Board Chairman, Mr Choy Kan-pui; will start distributing fight-crime leaflets to the public at 11 am at the New Town Plaza in Sha Tin before officiating a ceremony at Wo Che Shopping Arcade to conclude a series of fight crime publicity activities held in the past few weeks at housing estates.

In addition to presentation of prizes to winners of various publicity events, a rich entertainment programme including dancing, singing and taekwondo performances as well as magic will be staged.

In Tsuen Wan, Tsuen Wan District Officer, Mr Thomas Chow; Tsuen Wan District Commander, Mr Norman Alexander Rae; and Tsuen Wan District Board Chairman, Mr Chan Lau-fong; will attend a ceremony to kick off the Lunar Year End Fight Crime Campaign.

The campaign programme includes the distribution of information leaflets and lion dance by members of the Junior Police Call.

The ceremony will begin at 11 am at the open area next to Tsuen Wan Town Square, Tsuen Wan Market Street.

A similar carnival to disseminate fight crime messages will also be held in Tuen Mun between 9 am and 5 pm.

Tuen Mun District Officer, Mr Patrick Chan; Chairman of the Tuen Mun District Fight Crime Committee, Mr Poon Chiang-hung; and Tuen Mun District Commander, Mr Ng Hong-kun will jointly officiate the opening of the carnival.

Apart from a variety show and game stalls, there will also be distribution of information leaflets and a seminar to educate residents with on crime prevention.

End

Spring scrolls to spread child care message

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The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has produced five spring scrolls appealing to members of the public to make full use of occasional child care service.

Free copies of the spring scrolls, totalling 250,000, are now available for collection from all SWD district offices on a first-come, first-served basis.

"Children should under no circumstances be left alone, even for a short while," a spokesman for the department reminded the public today (Saturday).

"At present, there are 157 child care centres offering a total of 480 occasional child care places to assist families who might otherwise leave their children unattended," he said.

Child care centres offer temporary care for children aged under six at two-hour, half-day or whole day basis. The fee for a two-hour session is \$14.

Members of the public who want to know more about the service may call the SWD hotline on 2343 2255 or the Child Care Centre Advisory Inspectorate on 2835 2725.

"Parents having any child care problems can seek help from the department's 42 family services centres throughout the territory," spokesman added.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$ million)
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Opening balance in the account	3,115	09:30	-506
Closing balance in the account	2,244	10:00	-506
Change attributable to:		11:00	-506
Money market activity	-506	11:30	-506
LAF today	-365		

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 123.8 *-0.2* 3.2.96

End

The Governor's "Letter to Hong Kong"

* * * * *

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

Co-operation is one of the most frequently spoken words in the unfolding history of Hong Kong's transition to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. Of course, it's used in different ways. Sometimes, it's a slogan bereft of any real meaning. Sometimes, it's given a particular spin which robs it of its original sense: co-operation - on these occasions - suggests that one side abandons everything it believes in and does whatever the other side wants.

But what is the real co-operation that we should seek?

Co-operation means working together in a constructive way in a common endeavour within faithfully observed and shared boundaries. What's the common endeavour? The interests of Hong Kong as a successful economy and a free society. What are the shared boundaries? The terms of the Joint Declaration which prescribes how Hong Kong's economy can remain open and capitalist, and how the rule of law and the measured introduction of democracy and representative government can guarantee our well-being and our decent way of life.

We might secure more co-operation along these lines if everyone would remember that from Peking to Pok Fu Lam we have a shared interest. We all want Hong Kong to make it - to make it through to 1998 and beyond in the best possible shape despite the pessimists and the critics. That is what, I repeat, we all want. Chris Patten. Lu Ping. Martin Lee. And that's what those of us with direct responsibility will be judged on. The British Government. The last British Governor. The Chinese Government. The Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office. The Preparatory Committee. The Chief Executive of the SAR.

Now who should be involved in this process of co-operation? Let me talk about a three-way partnership, which - if it works with a healthy dose of civility and understanding - will make the world of difference.

First, there is the Hong Kong Government, charged with the task of running this community for just over another 500 days. Second, there is the first fully-elected Legislative Council, representing - more clearly than any other institution - the people of Hong Kong, whom we should never for one moment forget.

Third, there is the Preparatory Committee, some of whose members are elected to our Legislature, but all of whose members were appointed by Peking - as I was appointed by London. Their job, and I want to start with them, is to put what should be the final touches to the arrangements for installing a government of the SAR on 1st July 1997.

Whatever one thinks about the composition of the Preparatory Committee, we must hope that it sets about its important work with wisdom and courage. In the Hong Kong Government, we wish the Committee the best of luck and, as you know, we offer them the hand of co-operation. There will be a more extensive agenda for practical, co-operative action when there is a Chief Executive Designate and team. But we also stand ready before then to give what help we decently can and naturally to keep the community informed about what we are doing. We all know that there are some decisions which the Preparatory Committee could make which would increase its support in the community, and make its job much easier, and give the SAR the best chance of a flying start, to the approbation of this community and of the international community as well. I won't list all the well-known confidence building measures again. Sufficient to say that we all want to see the Hong Kong members of the Committee speaking up for Hong Kong as the best way of asserting our present and future high degree of autonomy.

Let me make one suggestion. In most other places, it would be regarded as a very natural proposal. So we should never slip into the trap of thinking that this sort of idea is somehow out of bounds. The idea is this. Why don't the Hong Kong members of the Preparatory Committee talk to the Legislative Council? Consider the following.

First, the Preparatory Committee has been urged by its Chairman to talk to and listen to the people of Hong Kong. And who represents them most self-evidently? There are Legislators on the PC. They do not deny the legitimacy and representativeness of our own Legislative Council. They certainly didn't during the election campaign. They didn't in the aftermath of their victories. They haven't to date. Talk to Hong Kong and you must talk to LegCo.

Secondly, discussion between LegCo and the Preparatory Committee should be straightforward, since about a quarter of LegCo members have overlapping membership with the Preparatory Committee. And many PC members have in the past embraced very similar views to those of the rest of the Legislative Council.

Thirdly, what happens if there's no dialogue? Do the things which the majority in LegCo represent simply melt away? Do they just disappear - all those beliefs and values and hopes? All that energy. All that commitment. The alternative to talking is exclusion, and exclusion spells trouble.

And what of LegCo themselves? They are today in a difficult position. Strong but difficult. The powers of the government and of the legislature are spelled out clearly in Hong Kong's constitutional arrangements after 1997. The checks and balances are clear. More democracy is promised after 1997, much more than there is today, but within clearly defined boundaries.

Today - in the run-up to 1997 - the position is much less clear. We have the old colonial constitution but with the addition of a wholly elected and independent legislature. The main checks and balances are the good sense of all of us who've got to try to make the system work as well as possible for Hong Kong. The only way we could have changed all this, tried to make it easier for the government, was by trying to juggle with the election arrangements so that they produced a different and pre-ordained result. But we are all familiar with that argument and know where it leads.

I've believed all along that whatever the difficulties we could make things work. But the difficulties are substantial and there for all to see. Because some legislators fear understandably that they'll be frozen out of the political process in the future, they think that they should do everything they can in the short term to achieve their own goals or those of their supporters. They want to make their mark.

And there are difficulties for the government. Civil servants find themselves pressed harder than before to account for what they are doing; they find policies that have worked for years, and which command the broad support and respect of the community, bitterly challenged; they find themselves dealing with proposals for sweeping institutional change at a particularly sensitive moment in Hong Kong's history without serious public debate or discussion.

As I've said before, co-operation between LegCo and the Government involves some give and take on both sides - with both sides recognising, I hope, that we shouldn't do anything which discredits either strong, accountable government on the one hand, or the development of responsible democratic institutions on the other.

Let me give an example. I certainly don't want to see co-operative arrangements between employers and employees that have worked pretty well in the work-place for many years wrecked for the sake of a few short-term headlines. But I do recognise - all of us should do so after the exposure, often by the unions, of labour abuses in the last few months - that the dialogue between employers and work-force has to be on the basis of partnership.

I'm obliged by the undertakings enshrined in the Joint Declaration to protect Hong Kong's freedoms and to continue the process of a steady democratisation of our government, a process which it is agreed should continue beyond 1997. And I'm also obliged to stand up for Hong Kong's civil servants, our system of government, and the measures that have made our economy strong and our society stable.

I'm going to strike a balance and I hope others will too.

Hong Kong's political life is incredibly moderate; think of what happens elsewhere; think of the challenges and doubts that we have to overcome.

It is in everyone's interest that our politics stay moderate. The Preparatory Committee. LegCo. The Government. All of us can play a part in securing that objective.

Realism. Prudence. Generosity of spirit. And the interests of Hong Kong. They all point in this same direction.

End

DGT to attend APEC Senior Officials Meeting in Manila

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The Director-General of Trade, Mr Tony Miller, will depart for Manila, the Philippines, tomorrow (Monday) to attend this year's first Senior Officials Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) to be held between February 7 and 9 to prepare for the APEC Ministerial Meeting later this year.

Mr Miller will lead a Hong Kong delegation comprising officials from the Trade and Industry Branch, the Financial Services Branch, the Industry Department, the Government Supplies Department, the Customs and Excise Department, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore and the Trade Department.

This year's first Senior Officials Meeting hosted by the Philippines, the 1996 APEC Chair, will start the discussion on the production of individual action plans by APEC member economies for implementing the goal of liberalisation and facilitation of free trade and investment by the year 2010/2020 as set out in the Osaka Action Agenda.

The Senior Officials Meeting will be followed by a series of meetings including those of the Tariff Database Task Force, the Economic Committee, the Committee on Trade and Investment, the Experts Group on Regulated Sectors in Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Food Products), the Experts Group on Government Procurement, the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance and Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures.

The APEC Ministerial Meeting will be held in October this year, also in Manila, and will be followed by the fourth Meeting of the APEC Economic Leaders in Subic in November.

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

End

Residents assured of adequate primary school places

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Residents of Saddle Ridge Garden in Ma On Shan were today (Sunday) assured that there is at present a plentiful supply of primary school places in Ma On Shan and that there is no need to build a new primary school there.

The Assistant Director of Education (Allocation and Support), Mr Anthony Tong, said there were already 10 primary schools in Ma On Shan, adding that another one would be completed in the district by September 1996.

"Therefore, the Education Department has no plans for a new primary school for the time being," he told residents of Saddle Ridge Garden who petitioned the department today asking for a new primary school at the school site near their estate.

Residents of Saddle Ridge Garden had, in the past, raised strong objections to the building of a new practical school at the school site in question.

The Education Department consulted the Sha Tin District Board and, having secured their support, further arranged a visit on January 9 for residents to two existing practical schools and distributed pamphlets to residents to enhance their understanding of this type of school.

The department will reply to residents to explain its position regarding residents' request.

End

Tuen Mun Road to re-open fully

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A section of the New Territories-bound carriageway of Tuen Mun Road at Sam Shing Hui will resume three-lane traffic from 6 am on Tuesday (February 6), a spokesman for the Transport Department announced today (Sunday).

With the re-opening of this section, Tuen Mun Road will be re-opened fully to three-lane traffic in both directions.

The spokesman said: "The existing speed limit of 50 kilometres per hour and temporarily-reduced lane width for this section will remain unchanged until February 16 to allow time for re-painting of road markings and other re-instatement works.

"Therefore, motorists should drive with care and patience on this section of Tuen Mun Road."

Kowloon Motor Bus Route 60P serving Tuen Mun Town Centre and Sheung Shui KCR Station, which was specially introduced to help commuters during the lane closure period, will also be cancelled from Tuesday.

End

6th Education and Careers Expo

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Young people and members of the public will have access to the most comprehensive and up-to-date information on careers, education and training opportunities at the 6th Education and Careers Expo.

The Expo, to be held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from February 8 to 11, will be the largest of its kind Hong Kong has ever seen.

It consists of an education section organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and a careers section staged by the Labour Department.

About 180 exhibitors from various trades, government departments, professional bodies as well as local and overseas educational institutes will be taking part.

Senior Labour Officer (Careers Advisory and External Employment Services), Mrs Bernadette Lai, said today (Sunday) that the Expo would provide a golden opportunity for visitors to obtain an overview of the various education and careers options open to them.

"We hope to help young people map out their future career and members of the public to enhance their career planning," she said.

The Expo will provide a forum where young people can gain a better understanding of the labour market by having face-to-face contacts with experienced professionals from various fields and by attending seminars and video shows on different industries.

Mrs Lai said response from schools was overwhelming as over 12,000 students from about 100 schools had enrolled for group visit, representing an increase of 20 per cent over last year.

This year, the Labour Department will occupy six booths and adopt an integrated approach in the presentation of its various kinds of employment services including Job Matching Programme, employment service for the disabled and careers education for the youth.

The Expo will open from 10.30 am to 7.30 pm on February 8, 10 am to 7.30 pm on February 9 and 10, and 10 am to 6 pm on February 11. Admission is free.

End

DB plays important role in reflecting residents' view

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The Kwun Tong District Board has assumed an important role for the past 10 years in reflecting the views and needs of the residents, the Director of Home Affairs, Mrs Shelley Lau, said today (Sunday).

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Kwun Tong District Festival '96, Mrs Lau said although problems in Kwun Tong were particularly complicated and great in number due to its size and population, the active involvement of local people and the advice they gave to the Government had been a great help.

"Besides, area committees as well as mutual aid committees and owners' corporations also made an invaluable contribution in promoting community participation and improving building management respectively," she said.

Mrs Lau pointed out that Kwun Tong had undergone many changes in recent years following the redevelopment of public housing estates and the completion of new facilities and housing blocks in the area.

All these, she said, not only brought a new appearance, but also an improvement to the living environment.

"The success of these projects was largely the result of a good and co-operative relationship among District Board members, government departments, voluntary organisations and the residents," she said.

This year's Kwun Tong District Festival, featuring a series of artistic activities, aimed to bring joy to people from all walks of life and promote community participation.

Major items include dance carnival, drama workshop, "Night for Songs of the Oldies", film show, Cantonese opera, children's drawing carnival, flower arranging competition and variety show.

The festival, jointly organised by the Kwun Tong District Board, the Kwun Tong District Office and the Urban Council, will last until February 11.

End

Exhibition on slope maintenance moves to Tsim Sha Tsui

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The third of a series of exhibitions on slope maintenance will begin tomorrow (Monday) at the Peninsula Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui East.

The exhibition will last for a week until February 12, and will be open daily between 10 am and 10 pm.

Organised by the Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) of the Civil Engineering Department, the exhibition is part of the department's continuing efforts to promote public awareness of the importance of slope maintenance.

The exhibition will feature various aspects of proper slope maintenance by means of colourful illustrations, photographs, charts and graphs.

Also being displayed at the exhibition are two guide books on slope maintenance, namely "Geoguide 5 - Guide to Slope Maintenance" and "Layman's Guide to Slope Maintenance".

Visitors will also be able to take home leaflets on slope maintenance, automated slope maintenance hotline service and the "Layman's Guide to Slope Maintenance".

"The first two exhibitions, held at Hung Hom and Sham Shui Po between December 1995 and January 1996, were well received by members of the public," a GEO spokesman said today (Sunday).

"Over 1,500 copies of the leaflet on slope maintenance and 1,000 copies of the GEO publication 'Layman's Guide to Slope Maintenance' were distributed," he said.

The same exhibition will be staged later in other districts including Tuen Mun and Ap Lei Chau.

Information on slope maintenance can also be obtained by calling the GEO's 24-hour automatic hotline 2762 5165.

End

59 new building plans approved in November 1995

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The Buildings Department had approved a total of 59 building plans in November last year.

Of the plans, 16 were for Hong Kong Island, 21 for Kowloon and 22 for the New Territories.

The approved plans include 21 for apartment and apartment/commercial developments, 13 for commercial developments, 12 for factory and industrial developments, and 13 for community services developments.

In the same month, consent was given for work to start on 37 building projects, which involved 187,946 square metres of usable domestic floor area and 165,267 square metres of usable non-domestic floor area.

The department also issued 27 occupation permits - 11 for Hong Kong Island, eight for Kowloon and eight for the New Territories.

Of the buildings certified for occupation in the month, the usable floor areas for domestic and non-domestic uses were 102,238 square metres and 72,289 square metres respectively.

The declared cost of new buildings completed in the month totalled about \$1,623 million.

In addition, 18 demolition consents involving 34 buildings and structures were issued.

The Buildings Department's Control and Enforcement Division had received 581 complaints of unauthorised building works, and issued 251 removal orders.

End