



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Study of marine traffic and optimum water usage launched

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The Marine Department today (Friday) embarks on one of the most comprehensive studies of marine traffic and the optimum use of marine waters undertaken anywhere in the world to date.

At a contract-signing ceremony marking the commencement of the Marine Activities, Associated Risk Assessment and Development of a Future Strategy for the Optimum Usage of Hong Kong Waters Study (MARAD Study), the Director of Marine, Mr Ian Dale, said the study had the considerable task of examining the present strategy for water area utilisation and vessel traffic movement throughout Hong Kong.

Mr Dale said: "A detailed survey of present-day activities and trends would be undertaken together with a long-term forecast of the needs for both commercial and pleasure activities in our waters.

"From this will be derived an optimum strategy for usage of our limited water areas, taking account of current and future environmental impact," he noted.

The recent rapid economic growth in the Pearl River was the catalyst for the dramatic rise in the numbers, and changes in patterns, of marine traffic experienced over the last few years.

In strictly statistical terms the number of vessel movements through the port of Hong Kong, which is often referred to as the world's busiest port, was 384,000 in 1994, delivering a throughput of 147 million tons of cargo and over 21 million passengers.

Growth in marine traffic activity has been most pronounced in Hong Kong's western waters reflecting the strategic shift of the port to the west.

The resulting high density of commercial shipping activities dictates that all available space in the western harbour and beyond is designated for specific uses associated with services to ships such as anchorages, fairways, mooring areas and typhoon shelters.

These areas are subject to a high degree of management control to ensure a high level of safety standards is maintained, while maximising utilisation of facilities and efficient movement of vessels.

The central and eastern harbours have long ago ceased to play a major role in cargo movements. The eastern waters of Hong Kong, with its many islands, remain a popular and safe marine playground, where commercial activities do not conflict with pleasure boating.

Mr Dale pointed out that in the light of these changes the need to review and if necessary change Hong Kong's long-term marine traffic and strategic water area management strategy was recognised.

The long-term strategy for the milestone years 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011 will:-

- (a) provide a navigational risk assessment of Hong Kong waters;
- (b) define more clearly the objectives for the optimum use of this limited resource and maintain the image of Hong Kong as a safe port in respect of commercial, tourist and recreational marine activities;
- (c) provide a broader picture of how port developments and the change in commercial shipping patterns will integrate with other growing demands on water space such as recreation and tourism; and
- (d) enable easier explanation of these developments to the marine community and public at large.

The general objective of the MARAD Study is to assess present and future levels of marine navigational risk in the waters of Hong Kong, and having regard to these levels draw up medium to long-term plans to mitigate identified risk and establish the best usage of Hong Kong waters.

The study will be conducted in three phases and is expected to be completed in 15 months.

The three phases are:

Phase I - Field study of existing marine traffic activities and risk assessment

Phase II - Marine planning studies to sectorise areas of port activities and establish traffic flow patterns

Phase III - Marine planning studies to analyse the results obtained from Phases I and II and to establish the best usage of Hong Kong waters.

Mr Dale congratulated Au Posford Consultants Ltd, in association with Rotterdam Municipal Port Management, Marine Safety Rotterdam, Risk & Policy Analysts Ltd and Axis Environmental Consultants Ltd, for putting a fine technical package at a competitive price.

Mr Dale is confident that in 15 months' time the consultancy team, with the support of the Marine Department staff, and guidance through the members of the Port Development Board Committee for Strategic Planning for Hong Kong Waters, will have achieved the target of a sustainable long-term strategy for the development of Hong Kong's marine activities.

End/Friday, September 15, 1995

STI attends ministerial meeting in Australia

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The Secretary for Trade and Industry, Mr Chau Tak-hay, has participated in the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Ministerial Meeting on Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) held in Adelaide, Australia, yesterday and today (September 14 and 15).

The meeting, chaired by the Minister for Small Business, Customs and Construction of Australia, Senator Chris Schacht, was attended by 18 APEC economies, namely, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and the United States.

At the meeting, member economies shared their experience in tackling problems and challenges faced by SMEs in adjusting to an increasingly globalised and free trade environment.

Mr Chau said: "For a basically high-cost, high-skill economy such as Hong Kong, the key to the continued success of SMEs lies in productivity enhancement, covering both increasing operational efficiency and increasing the value we add to our products.

"In the case of Hong Kong," Mr Chau added: "SMEs represent 98 per cent of our enterprises. SMEs are not just a business sector, but are the bedrock of our economy."

The meeting's Joint Ministers/Private Sector session provided a useful opportunity for ministers to exchange views with private sector representatives on how to tackle problems and challenges faced by SMEs and to facilitate the further development of SMEs.

The SME ministers endorsed a program of actions in a number of areas, namely human resources development, information access, technology and technology sharing, financing and market access. This Action Program will be presented to APEC Ministers and Economic Leaders.

At the end of the meeting, the SME ministers issued a Joint Statement reaffirming the role and importance of SMEs and the proposed SMEs Action Program which will be submitted to the APEC economic leaders for endorsement in November.

End/Friday, September 15, 1995

SCA urges voters to cast their vote on Sunday

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The Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, Mr Nicholas Ng, today (Friday) urged registered voters to turn up at the polling station near their home on Sunday (September 17) to cast their vote in the elections, which will return Hong Kong's first fully-elected Legislative Council.

"This time we have a record number of 2.57 million registered voters, of whom 1.15 million are also voters for the functional constituencies. We also have a record number of 138 candidates for the geographical, functional and Election Committee elections," he said.

"The voting procedures are simple and easy. Most voters, including those who are eligible to cast more than one vote, will only need to visit a polling station once."

Speaking at a luncheon meeting of Po Leung Kuk's Board of Directors, Mr Ng said the elections would be conducted in a fair and open manner to safeguard the credibility of the Legislative Council they returned.

"To achieve this end, the electorate has been expanded by lowering the voting age and introducing nine new functional constituencies, which give all working persons a second vote. The number of voters in the old functional constituencies has also increased," he said.

On the voting procedures, Mr Ng said voters should have already received a poll card from the Registration and Electoral Office, giving details of their respective constituency and polling station.

"Voters can call the 24-hour hotline 2827 1122 should they have any queries about the poll card. Another hotline, 2891 1400, is available for voters who wish to know more about the platforms of the candidates," he said.

"At the polling station, a voter registered in a geographical constituency will be issued a white ballot paper, while a voter registered in a functional constituency will be given a coloured ballot paper. Those who are registered in both will be issued with a white and a coloured ballot paper at the same time.

"The voter should simply put a tick on the ballot paper in the circle opposite the name of the candidate of his choice, and then fold up the ballot paper so as to conceal the vote.

"He should then put the folded white ballot paper into the white ballot box, and if applicable, the folded coloured ballot paper into the red ballot box," he said.

Mr Ng added that although a voter was required to produce only his identity card to cast a vote, it would be a help to speed up the work of the polling staff if he could also produce his poll card.

To arouse residents' attention to the importance of the elections, Mr Ng said a \$21 million publicity campaign had been held in the past three months.

"Emphasis has been placed not just on familiarising electors with the voting arrangements, but also to help them to know more about the candidates so that a wise choice could be made.

"The massive campaign includes five APIs (Announcements in the Public Interest), six designs of posters, mobile exhibitions, advertisements, mailing of 'introduction to candidates' to electors, as well as a series of election forums both in the districts and on radio and television," said Mr Ng.

End/Friday, September 15, 1995

Exhibition on harbour reclamations

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Members of the public will be able to see how harbour reclamations help shape the future development of Hong Kong as an international trade and financial centre in a roving exhibition commencing next Monday (September 18).

The exhibition will feature good illustrations and photographs of how the territory gains land from sea to improve the living environment, to satisfy the needs for housing and other infrastructure and to sustain the economic growth.

Visitors will also be able to gain an overview of how harbour reclamations in the early days helped Hong Kong to prosper and how the public will benefit from current and future reclamation projects that will help solve the overcrowding problem in older urban areas and provide more amenity facilities such as waterfront promenades for public enjoyment.

The exhibition will provide answers to points of concern raised by some quarters of the community, notably the effects of harbour reclamations on land supply, environment, and navigational safety.

On top of panel displays, there will be a short film to be shown on a full-size video wall and models of the future look of the harbour.

Visitors will be able to take home leaflets showing the major reclamation projects and explaining why Hong Kong needs to proceed with the reclamation programme as it always did in the past 150 years to satisfy the incessant demand for land.

The exhibition will take place at six shopping centres over the next five weeks as follows:

<u>Venue</u>	<u>Date</u>
* Ocean Terminal	September 18 - 22
* Metroplaza	September 23 - 28
* Times Square	September 30 - October 5
* Lok Fu Shopping Centre II	October 6 - 10
* Telford Centre	October 8 - 13
* Pacific Place	October 18 - 22

End/Friday, September 15, 1995

Point system on electrical workers a success

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The point system introduced by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) to monitor the performance of registered electrical workers and contractors has been a great success.

This was stated by the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services, Mr Hugh Phillipson, at the 11th Annual General Meeting and Inauguration Ceremony of Officials of the Hong Kong Electrical Contractors' Association this (Friday) evening.

The Performance Monitoring Point System was implemented in April last year to ensure that electrical works are undertaken by electrical workers and contractors in compliance with the Electricity Ordinance, in particular, the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations.

Mr Phillipson noted that up to now, demerit points had been recorded against about 3,300 registered electrical workers and contractors who had committed mistakes in their electrical works.

"EMSD has issued warning letters to about 200 of these registered persons requesting them to improve their performance and informing them that otherwise disciplinary action will be taken against them," he said.

Under the system, if a registered electrical worker or contractor is found to be negligent in his work or has failed to perform his statutory duties satisfactorily, demerit points would be recorded against him.

The number of demerit points recorded depends on the severity of the case.

Based on the monitoring results, the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services will either issue a warning notice to the registered electrical contractor or worker concerned, or arrange a site inspection with him.

The Director will only take disciplinary action against negligent workers or contractors, based on the evidence collected during the on-site inspection.

End/Friday, September 15, 1995

Tenders invited for slope upgrading works

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The Civil Engineering Department is inviting tenders for upgrading 30 slopes and retaining walls throughout the territory under its accelerated Landslip Preventive Measures (LPM) Programme.

The works are expected to commence in mid-November for completion in two years.

The Chief Geotechnical Engineer of the department's Geotechnical Engineering Office, Mr Allan Watkins, said the contract for the upgrading works was the second one to be let in 1995-96.

He recalled that the Secretary for Works had announced earlier this year that the government's programme to upgrade government-owned man-made slopes listed in the 1977 Slope Catalogue would be completed by the year 2000 at a cost of some \$1.3 billion.

Mr Watkins said at least four contracts per year were expected to be let over the five-year duration of the programme.

"Studies of private slopes and retaining walls have also been accelerated considerably and that over 200 slopes will be studied in the 1995-96 year.

"A statutory notice will be served by the Buildings Department requiring owners to carry out upgrading works if the studies revealed that a slope or a retaining wall is not up to the required standards," he added.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Chief Geotechnical Engineer/Works, Geotechnical Engineering Office, 10th floor, Civil Engineering Building, 101 Princess Margaret Road, Kowloon.

Tender offer will close at noon on October 6.

End/Friday, September 15, 1995

Drainage Authority Area plan published

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The Governor-in-Council has approved a Drainage Authority Area plan for Yuen Long, Kam Tin and Ngau Tam Mei Drainage Basin.

The approved plan delineates "Drainage Authority Area" in Yuen Long, Kam Tin and Ngau Tam Mei Drainage Basin covering Shap Pat Heung, Ping Shan, Fairview Park, Ngau Tam Mei, Nam Sang Wai, Pat Heung, Kam Tin and Yuen Long Town.

This Drainage Authority Area is approximately 90 square kilometres. About 44 kilometres of watercourses within this drainage basin are designated as main watercourses and shown on the approved plan.

The approved plan was published in the gazette today (Friday).

Upon the publication of the notice, the Land Drainage Ordinance will apply with respect to the Drainage Authority Area and main watercourses designated in the approved plan.

Any person who is interested in viewing the approved plan may do so at the following offices during office hours:

- * Drainage Services Department, Headquarters, 43rd floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai;
- * Land Drainage Division, Drainage Services Department, 11th floor, Kowloon Government Offices, 405 Nathan Road, Yau Ma Tei;
- * Yuen Long District Office, Yuen Long District Office Building, 269 Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long;
- * Land Registry, 28th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, and
- * Yuen Long New Territories Land Registry, seventh floor, Yuen Long Government Offices, 2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long.

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Flood protection works for Sha Po Tsuen

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The Drainage Services Department (DSD) will carry out village flood protection works in Kam Tin to protect Sha Po Tsuen from flooding.

The works include construction of an earth bund, a pumping station, a flood storage pond and a drainage channel around Sha Po Tsuen.

The project is part of stage one of the Village Flood Protection for Yuen Long, Kam Tin and Ngau Tam Mei.

The contract is scheduled to begin in February next year for completion in 24 months.

A notice inviting tenders for the works was gazetted today (Friday).

Tender forms and further particulars may be obtained from the office of the Chief Engineer, Drainage Projects Division, DSD, 44th floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai.

The tender closing date is noon on October 13.

End/Friday, September 15, 1995

Berthing facilities for refuse transfer vessels

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The government intends to carry out works within an area of about 1,860 square metres of foreshore and sea-bed at Tai Kwai Wan, Cheung Chau to provide berthing facilities and marine access for the refuse transfer vessels that will operate at the Cheung Chau Station of the outlying islands transfer facilities.

Works include modifying about 55 metres of sloping seawall to vertical seawall, constructing a mooring dolphin, carrying out protective works for an existing water mains with a diameter of 500 millimetres to the north of the site, and dredging the sea-bed.

It is expected that the works will commence in early next year for completion by mid-1997.

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

Any person who considers he has an interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and sea-bed involved may submit a written objection to the Director of Lands on or before November 15.

The notice (in both English and Chinese) together with its related plan can be seen on notice boards posted near the site.

The plan can also be seen at the Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, (where copies can be purchased on order); the Islands District Office, 20th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, and the Cheung Chau Sub-office of the Islands District Office, ground floor, 22 San Hing Street, Cheung Chau.

End/Friday, September 15, 1995

Improvement of water supply to Central and Western

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The Water Supplies Department is inviting tenders for the laying of fresh and salt water mains in Sheung Wan and Sai Ying Pun.

The mains measures a total length of 7,150 metres and range from 400 to 800 millimetres in diameter.

The project forms part of a scheme aiming at improving salt and fresh water supply to the Central and Western districts on Hong Kong Island.

It is anticipated that works will commence in December for completion in about 24 months.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Water Supplies Department, Immigration Tower, 44th floor, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Tenders will close at noon on October 13.

End/Friday, September 15, 1995

Roving education exhibition opens tomorrow

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An Education Department roving exhibition dotted with lively, colourful cartoons will open tomorrow (Saturday) to demonstrate to parents and teachers the merits of the Target Oriented Curriculum (TOC) which encourages teachers to bring life, interest and active participation into the classroom.

The exhibition at Level 2, Tuen Mun Town Plaza Phase I, will feature the concept and merits of the new curriculum, assessment and reporting, along with feedback from parents and pilot schools.

The roving exhibition is the second on TOC, and is aimed at introducing the curriculum to parents who have to choose discretionary school places for their children this month in order to enter Primary 1 in September next year.

A total of 439 schools have already indicated intention to adopt TOC in Primary 1 in the 1996-97 school year. The Government has said the secondary school places allocation system will be modified in 2001 to follow the development of TOC.

The list of schools adopting TOC in September 1996 will be available for viewing at the exhibition. Leaflets will be distributed and Education Department officers will be on hand to answer questions from parents.

A video on TOC will also be shown at the exhibition.

The venues of the exhibition are: Level 2, Tuen Mun Town Plaza (September 16 and 17); Entrance Arena, Shatin New Town Plaza (September 18 and 19); Exhibition Hall, Lok Fu Shopping Centre Phase I (September 20 and 21); Level 2, Metroplaza, Kwai Fong (September 22 to 24); Shopping Mall, Telford Centre, Kowloon Bay (September 25 and 26); and Centre Bridge, Level 2, Cityplaza, Taikoo Shing (September 27 and 28).

The exhibition opens daily from 12 noon to 7 pm.

A spokesman for the Education Department urged parents who have to choose a primary school for their children, as well as teachers, to visit the exhibition.

End/Friday, September 15, 1995

Education Sunday to mark new school year

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Special church services to mark the start of the new school year will be held on September 17 which has been designated Education Sunday.

An Education Department spokesman said teachers and students are welcome to attend the services at the following churches:

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| * Catholic Cathedral,
16 Caine Road, Hong Kong. | (Chinese Service) | 11 am |
| * St John's Cathedral,
Garden Road, Hong Kong. | (English Service) | 11.30 am |
| * St Teresa's Church,
258 Prince Edward Road,
Kowloon Tong, Kowloon. | (English Service) | 11.15 am |
| * Holy Trinity Church,
135 Ma Tau Chung Road,
Kowloon City, Kowloon. | (Chinese Service) | 11 am |

Attending the service will be the Director of Education, Mr W K Lam (Catholic Cathedral); the Deputy Director of Education, Miss Elaine Chung (St John's Cathedral); Assistant Director of Education, Mr Kwan Shu-tsun (St Teresa's Church); and Assistant Director of Education, Mr David Pun (Holy Trinity Church).

End/Friday, September 15, 1995

Hong Kong man jailed for possessing forged passports

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A spokesman for the Immigration Department confirmed that a Hong Kong resident was sentenced to two years' jail by the District Court today (Friday) for possession of forged travel documents.

The man, aged 27, was arrested by immigration investigators on May 30 at the check-in counter of Kai Tak Airport.

He was found carrying three photo-substituted Hong Kong British passports and was intended to escort three PRC nationals to seek illegal entry to the United States.

Upon enquiries, the man admitted he was paid \$6,000 to accompany the three mainlanders to USA by using the three forged passports.

He appeared in the District Court today and pleaded guilty to offences of possession of forged travel documents. He was sentenced to two years' jail.

A spokesman for the Immigration Department said: "It is an offence in law to have in possession of forged, false or unlawfully altered travel documents. Offenders are liable to prosecution and upon conviction, the maximum penalty will be a fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for 14 years."

End/Friday, September 15, 1995

Manufacturer fined for making false export statement

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A garment manufacturer was fined a total of \$474,000 at the North Kowloon Magistracy today (Friday) after pleading guilty to three counts of making a false statement in an application for export licence.

The goods involved were over 900 dozen ladies' knitted cardigans valued at \$1.89 million for export to the United States of America.

The court heard that an investigation by officers of the Customs and Excise Department revealed that in August and September 1993, High Peak Knitters Limited had arranged the goods to be manufactured in China. However, in order to facilitate the obtaining of Hong Kong export licences, the company made false representation on three applications for export licences that the goods were of Hong Kong origin.

End/Friday, September 15, 1995

Closure of Shuen Wan landfill

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Shuen Wan landfill in Tai Po will be closed for restoration starting Monday (September 18).

Located in the vicinity of Tai Po new town, the landfill started receiving wastes from the northeastern part of the New Territories since 1973.

Acting Principal Environmental Protection Officer, Mr Wong Sze-hoi, said: "Shuen Wan landfill is one of the old landfills which were constructed at a time when landfill technology and environmental requirements were less developed and demanding than those of today.

"It is therefore the Government's intention to close existing sub-standard landfills as early as possible and to have them replaced by environmentally acceptable strategic landfills."

The Shuen Wan landfill was decommissioned in stages starting from June this year. And from next Monday, wastes currently delivered to the landfill will be diverted to the North East New Territories landfill, which is a newly commissioned strategic landfill.

Together with the West New Territories and South East New Territories landfills opened in 1993 and 1994 respectively, the three strategic landfills form the new disposal outlets for solid wastes in Hong Kong.

End/Friday, September 15, 1995

Fresh water cut in Wan Chai

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Wan Chai will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Monday (September 18) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water mains leakage detection.

The affected areas will include 250-254 Gloucester Road, 440-468A Jaffe Road, 441-483 and 442-484 Lockhart Road, 439-481 Hennessy Road as well as 8 and 17-29 Percival Street.

End/Friday, September 15, 1995

Buildings Department seeks to close unauthorised works

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The Buildings Department is seeking to close the unauthorised building works on the second floor of No 166 Yee Kuk Street in Kowloon for demolition without endangering the occupiers and the public.

A notice was posted at the structures today (Friday) informing the occupiers that the department would apply for a closure order in respect of the structures from the court on October 31.

Chief Building Surveyor, Mr Leung Shiu-hong, said the planned closure was part of an exercise to enforce an order issued under the Buildings Ordinance requiring removal of the illegal structures.

Demolition of the structures would commence once the order was granted, but Mr Leung stressed that no one would be rendered homeless in line with the Government's policy.

He advised the occupiers to approach the Buildings Department if they require assistance in rehousing, adding that the department would put them in touch with the Housing Department for screening and assessment of their eligibility for rehousing.

The Buildings Department has also informed the Social Welfare Department of planned closure.

End/Friday, September 15, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,166	0930	+41
Closing balance in the account	2,176	1000	+41
Change attributable to :		1100	+41
Money market activity	+39	1200	+39
LAF today	+971	1500	+39
		1600	+39

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 123.2 *+0.0* 15.9.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.80	2 years	2708	6.06	100.29	5.98
1 month	5.80	3 years	3807	6.16	99.96	6.27
3 months	5.79	5 years	5006	6.60	99.46	6.84
6 months	5.79	5 years	M501	7.90	102.69	7.34
12 months	5.79					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$8,597 million

Closed September 15, 1995

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