



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

Friday, May 12, 1995

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Transcript of the Governor's media session

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The following is a transcript of the Governor the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's media session after opening the Methodist Shelter for Domestic Workers today (Friday):

Question: Mr Patten, what is your birthday wish?

Governor: I hope that we have a happy and successful and prosperous year in Hong Kong. I very much enjoy my last year. Hong Kong is a wonderful place to live in and I want it to remain as great a place in the future. I also hope that I'll have a nice dinner tonight.

Question: As we can remember on your birthday last year, you said that you wanted to meet with Director Lu Ping. But during the last year, your hope hasn't come true. Are you disappointed with that?

Governor: I think Hong Kong is probably disappointed. As you know under the Airport Memorandum of Understanding, there's an obligation on us to meet regularly and I think there is a moral obligation on us to try to work together. You look around the world and everywhere else you see people trying to sort out much bigger problems than we have here in Hong Kong. Problems that have often led to bloodshed and disaster. They try to sit down at the table even if they have disagreements and sort things out together. We should be doing that more positively and more constructively here in Hong Kong. So we've held out our hand and I hope that one day it will be taken by Chinese officials and that they will hold out their hand as well.

Question: Do you want to receive any present from the Chinese side?

Governor: I don't think they are likely to send me any presents. They haven't sent me a present so far. The best present would be the assurance that they would co-operate with the Government of Hong Kong during the transition. It's puzzling I think for some people that we hear Chinese officials saying again and again that they want to know more about this and more about that, that they want us to work with them more on this and more on that. But here they are, coming to Hong Kong, and they are not talking to the people who are responsible for the Hong Kong Government and administration and will be for the next couple of years. I think people sometimes feel that are rather puzzling contradictions. But even no cake, no card, no present, I very much hope that the Director will have a successful visit to Hong Kong. I hope that the weather will be nice. I hope that he will meet as wide a cross section of the community as possible. I hope he will hear all the voices. And I hope that he will be able to give reassurances about the Court of Final Appeal, about civil service issues, about the financial support agreements which when he was in America he said would be settled within a few days. So I hope he will be able to give some reassurances while he is here. But I hope he will have a successful visit and I hope that very sincerely and I hope he will come more frequently in the future.

Question: On the court of Final Appeal, will the next round of Joint Liaison Group talks later this month be the last before Government puts through the Bill on the Court of Final Appeal?

Governor: I would like to think that there could be an agreement at those talks. In which case they would be the last. We're trying to find a way forward with the Chinese side and with the whole community. As you know the Chinese side have had the Bill for a year and they still haven't said in what way the Bill differs from the agreement that we reached in 1991. And it was an agreement. The Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom and the PRC, had you remember met in Peking and they discussed this matter and following that meeting there was an agreement in the JLG and it's only recently that one or two Chinese officials have rather puzzled the rest of us by saying "Oh, no, it wasn't really an agreement at all." When is an agreement not an agreement. It was an agreement and I think that the people of Hong Kong expect me to implement it and get the court set up in good time before 1997.

Question: If there is no agreement, will you shoot through ...

Governor: I always try to be positive. One of my resolutions now I am 51, even more positive. So all I will say is that all of us are very curious about what it is that the Chinese side find difficult about our Bill. Why not ask them?

Question: Governor Patten, in the case of Mr Li Kwan-ha, the ex-Police Commissioner, will the Government take any action against him?

Governor: What we are doing at the moment is trying to find out what exactly the facts are. We take an issue like this very seriously. The rules for civil servants and for all public servants are very clear. There is no doubt about them. And they are clear for an excellent reason. When civil servants retire many of them still have many years of service which they can provide to the private sector in the community. And they've gone on from the time in the civil service and they've done outstanding jobs elsewhere in the community. We can all think of some who are doing that today. What the community needs is the reassurance that any move to the private sector will be entirely above-board. They don't want to think that there would have been or could have been any conflicts of interests in a public servant's career. And it's imperative that we do everything possible to retain the confidence of the community in those arrangements. It's unfair to other public servants if those arrangements are brought into dispute, if they are shadowed by controversy. So, we've doing what you expect us to do. We're making enquiries to find out what exactly has happened in this case and I very much hope that at the end of the day we'll find that what has been done has been within the letter and the spirit of the very clear rules that are in place for all public servants. I repeat that it's not an insignificant issue. It matters for the community and it matters for all those excellent serving members of the disciplined forces, it matters for all those serving civil servants who can contribute more after their retirement from the public service to the community and want to be able to do so in a way the rest of the community can feel is without any compromise of their position as public servants.

Question: Does Mr Li do anything that's...

Governor: I repeat what I said. We are trying to establish what the facts are and it would be totally wrong of me to comment on an individual case before we knew all the facts. But the general principles are absolutely plain. The rules are clear and every public servant has to abide by them.

End/Friday, May 12, 1995

Slope safety measures underway

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A package of measures recommended following an extensive review of the slope safety programme by the Works Branch are being implemented, the Secretary for Works, Mr James Blake, said today (Friday).

Speaking at a press conference to launch a Slope Maintenance Campaign, Mr Blake said the measures include:

- * acceleration of the Landslip Preventive Measures (LPM) Programme;
- * extension of the LPM Programme to include slopes close to busy roads and footpaths;
- * review of the system for classifying slopes according to consequence of failure;
- * promotion of slope maintenance; and
- * maintenance of buried services affecting slope safety.

Elaborating on the measures, Mr Blake said acceleration of the LPM Programme was aimed at completing the studies and the necessary upgrading work of 10,000 man-made slopes listed in the 1978 Catalogue by the year 2000, 10 years earlier than the target date.

Additional staff resources had been allocated to the Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) and the Buildings Department (BD) for this task. These included 133 new posts in the GEO and 27 in the BD. In addition, the capital cost would be in the order of \$1.3 billion.

The LPM Programme had been extended in scope to include the upgrading of slopes close to busy roads and footpaths. A modified priority system was being worked out by the GEO to give the appropriate order of priority for investigation and upgrading.

A comprehensive review of the consequence-to-life categorisation for slopes had been carried out. The term "low" for the middle category of consequence would be revised accordingly. This would not affect Government's decision to include slopes close to busy roads and footpaths in the LPM Programme.

Mr Blake pointed out that approval had been given and additional funds had been obtained for stepping up the publicity campaign on slope maintenance.

Leaflets, posters and an animated 30-second TV Announcement of Public Interest (API) on slope maintenance had been produced.

The GEO would also assist the Home Affairs Department to produce a promotional video on building management to explain to Owners' Corporations and Mutual Aid Committees that it was the responsibility of property owners to carry out maintenance of slopes within their property lots.

Geotechnical guidelines on slope maintenance, for use by professionals, and the layman's guide to Slope Maintenance were being prepared and would be published later in the year.

The Works Branch had set up a working group on maintenance of buried services with participation of the Planning, Environment and Lands Branch, BD, Housing Department, GEO, Drainage Services Department, Highways Department, Water Supplies Department and Architectural Services Department.

An Advisory Note has been prepared covering inspection and repair of buried services where leakages might have an impact on slope safety. This will be issued to Owners' Corporations, Mutual Aid Committees, authorised persons and registered structural engineers.

In addition, further detailed consideration was being given to development of a register of the maintenance responsibilities for all man-made slopes and ways of strengthening geotechnical control of slopes on privately-occupied land through legislation.

Speaking of flood control in the New Territories, Mr Blake pointed out that projects being implemented by the Drainage Services Department, at a total estimated cost of about \$5 billion, comprised main river training works for the Shenzhen River, the Shan Pui River and the Kam Tin River, and flood protection schemes for low-lying flood prone villages.

A total of 15 such schemes were in operation.

Special arrangements were being put in place to monitor the progress on land acquisition, a critical factor in delivering the flood control projects on programme.

Short-term improvement and management measures were being taken to alleviate flooding, including local drainage improvement works, maintenance activities to prevent drain blockages, surveillance activities to ensure that the integrity of the drainage system was preserved, and installation of local flood warning systems to alert the residents of flood prone villages.

Most of these activities were carried out on a continuous basis and action was stepped up before and during the rainy season each year. Some \$140 million had been spent on these activities during the past two years, and \$90 million were being spent this year.

Works departments also monitor flood inducing activities connected with construction sites.

Before the rainy season, reminders would be sent to engineers, authorised persons, consultants and contractors in charge of construction sites requesting their co-operation in exercising strict control of their construction activities.

A wide range of flood preventive measures had been completed at the Tuen Mun (Fu Tei) Pumping Station.

These include installation of flood alarms and raising of concrete side walls to drainage channels, building raised concrete curbs and flood gates around the station, and installation of large capacity sump pumps in the basement of the station.

"With these measures in place, we are confident that the station will not be flooded again during heavy rain," Mr Blake noted.

During the press conference, the TV API and slides on slope maintenance were shown.

End/Friday, May 12, 1995

Use of Chinese in higher Courts

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The Official Languages (Amendment) Bill 1995 which seeks to remove the present restriction on the use of Chinese in the higher courts was published in the Gazette today (Friday). It will be introduced into the Legislative Council on May 24.

At present, the proceedings in the magistrates courts and some tribunals may be conducted in either English or Chinese. However, the Official Languages Ordinance specifies that proceedings in the Court of Appeal, the High Court, the District Court and certain tribunals may be conducted only in English.

"The proposed Bill will enable the judge presiding over a court hearing to use either English or Chinese," a Government spokesman said.

"However, the judge's choice of the language will not dictate what language a party, a legal representative or a witness is to use.

"Like the judge, lawyers representing the parties will be allowed to use either English or Chinese. A party to the hearing will also be allowed to issue a writ or file a defence or notice of appeal in either language as well.

"Furthermore, a party or a witness may continue to use either English or Chinese, or even another language, when attending a court hearing," he said.

The wider use of Chinese in judicial proceedings will require additional facilities and expertise.

Interpretation and translation services will be provided as required, and the written transcription will be prepared in either English or Chinese as the court thinks fit.

The Executive Council has endorsed an eight-phase implementation strategy recommended by the Chief Justice's Steering Committee on Use of Chinese in Courts.

The spokesman said the pace of the phased implementation would be decided by the Chief Justice, who would take into account the experience gained from a series of trial schemes due to start in August.

"The aim is to put in place a framework which allows the use of Chinese, along with English, in all judicial proceedings in Hong Kong before July 1, 1997," the spokesman said.

"This reform will give an option to those people who feel that justice is best served by the use of Chinese, rather than English, in their cases. This is in line with the Government's bilingual policy," he added.

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New provisions to the Code of Practice

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At its meeting held on May 11, the Broadcasting Authority (BA) decided to add new provisions to the Code of Practice on Programme Standards to regulate the presentation of hypnotism and superstition on television and radio.

The BA spokesman explained that these changes arose from the mid-term review of the commercial television licences conducted in 1994.

"A similar provision already exists in the code for subscription television. On equity grounds, the same provision should be made to apply to terrestrial and satellite television," she continued. "The Broadcasting Authority wants licensees to be careful when dealing with the subject of hypnotism and to avoid causing any possible adverse impact on the audience," she said.

Another new provision, which will be introduced across the board to television and radio alike, concerns the promotion of harmful superstition and supernatural beliefs.

"Broadcasters are advised not to encourage people to treat psychic or occult practices as commonly accepted appraisals of life or exact sciences in broadcasting. They must exercise due care to avoid causing undesirable emotional disturbances in children and young people," the spokesman cautioned.

She said the amendments to the Codes of Practice will take effect from May 15.

The BA considered a total of 72 complaints at the meeting.

Metro Broadcasts was seriously warned for including indirect advertising elements for a property exhibition in its programme "Enjoy Yourself This Morning" broadcast on FM Select. The offer of a guaranteed percentage of return in investment in property or a guaranteed rental return was also in breach of the advertising code.

The BA issued two serious warnings to ATV for the broadcast of a programme promo for "Just Wanna Have Fun" and the film "A Moment of Romance II" on the Home service during the family viewing hours.

The promo contained some nudity and material of an adult-nature and the film featured some prolonged and excessively violent sequences which constituted unsuitable material for children's viewing and should not have been broadcast on television between 4 pm and 8.30 pm.

A drama serial "Ienakiko" broadcast during the family viewing hours on ATV Home channel was considered to be problematic.

The spokesman explained that the drama contained a lot of unsuitable children material which might have some harmful effect on children. The dishonest and revengeful acts; and in particular the suicidal attempts of a small girl might invite imitation. Some violent scenes might unnerve and unsettle young viewers.

TVB was strongly advised to observe the code in portraying superstitious elements. The BA considered that the portrayal in the drama serial "A Change of Fate" broadcast on Jade during the family viewing hours might arouse fear and anxiety in young viewers.

The BA also studied a report on the provision of subtitles to programmes on commercial television and was happy to note that both ATV and TVB had increased the presentation of subtitles for news programmes on their Chinese services.

"This is a welcome initiative for those who are hard of hearing," the spokesman said.

The BA also reviewed the first public hearing on the mid-term review of the licence of the Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Company Limited (CRHK) held on May 8 and made an appeal to those who missed the first to go to the second public hearing scheduled for Thursday (May 18), at the Hong Kong Science Museum from 6.30 pm to 9.30 pm.

End/Friday, May 12, 1995

Accession to the Istanbul Convention

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Hong Kong will become a contracting party to the Convention on Temporary Admission of Goods with effect from Monday (May 15), a Government spokesman announced today (Friday).

"Among contracting parties, the trade declaration requirement for certain goods for temporary admission will be waived," the spokesman said.

The Convention was signed at Istanbul in 1990 to facilitate the temporary admission of goods by waiving all import taxes or duties and certain customs formalities.

"The Convention is commonly known as the Istanbul Convention. It was adopted by the World Customs Organisation to consolidate a number of pre-existing conventions concerning the temporary admission of goods," he added.

Most of the pre-existing conventions are already applicable to Hong Kong.

"Hong Kong does not charge any import taxes or duties. Certain goods for temporary admission are already exempted from the trade declaration requirement.

"To comply fully with the obligations under the Istanbul Convention, we have amended the Import and Export (Registration) Regulation to waive the trade declaration requirements for the temporary admission of broadcasting equipment and means of transport," he said.

The spokesman added that the Amendment Regulation would take effect on May 15.

"Apart from waiving the trade declaration requirements, the Istanbul Convention also requires contracting parties to accept the use of certain customs papers called ATA carnets issued by members of the International Chamber of Commerce as substitutes for trade declarations to facilitate temporary admission of goods," the spokesman said.

To tie in with the accession, the spokesman said "the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce will be issuing ATA carnets for the purposes of the Istanbul Convention with effect from May 15, 1995".

"Hong Kong's accession to the Istanbul Convention will facilitate the expansion of Hong Kong's external trade and enhance our competitiveness in the international trade arena," the spokesman said.

"It will also enable Hong Kong to participate actively in the development of customs procedures through the World Customs Organisation."

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Monitors' report submitted to CS

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The monitors appointed to observe the Orderly Repatriation Programme (ORP) operation yesterday (Thursday) have submitted their report to the Chief Secretary today (Friday).

The four monitors were two Justices of the Peace, Mr Chow Chun-fai and Mr Hui Chun-fui, Mr Edward Chan Chai-shi from Oxfam and Mr Surya Rao from Christian Action.

They observed the transfer of 38 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) from High Island Detention Centre to Victoria Prison yesterday.

The monitors described the operation as having been carried out "without any major incidents". They observed that throughout the operation, the disciplined forces acted with restraint and patience and adopted a passive and self-protective approach towards the VMs.

End/Friday, May 12, 1995

US bank granted licence to conduct business in HK

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A Government spokesman said today (Friday) that NBD Bank (NBDB) had been granted a banking licence to conduct business in Hong Kong.

NBDB is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NBD Bancorp, Inc., a bank holding company. NBD Bancorp, Inc. is the 18th largest banking group in the USA and ranks 95th in the world in terms of capital. NBDB operates 328 domestic branches and has overseas branches in the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan and Australia.

In Hong Kong, NBDB opened a representative office in 1976. The office was upgraded to a restricted licence bank in 1991 to take over the deposit-taking business of its wholly-owned subsidiary, NBD Asia Ltd.

The bank believes that by further upgrading its operations to a licensed bank, it would be able to provide a fuller range of commercial banking services to its customers.

The principal business of the proposed branch will include trade financing, commercial lending and deposit services.

The spokesman said the continuing interest of foreign banks in entering the local market reflected Hong Kong's continued importance and attractiveness as a major international financial centre. The licence for NBDB is the third banking licence granted in 1995.

There are now 182 licensed banks in Hong Kong, of which 151 are incorporated outside the territory.

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Reports on vehicle registration tax increase denied

In response to media enquiries, a Transport Branch spokesman today (Friday) described as pure speculation reports in a few Chinese newspapers that the Government would increase dramatically vehicle first registration taxes and annual licence fees next year.

On electronic road pricing, he said it was too early to say how much it would cost to implement the scheme as a technical consultancy study on the proposal had yet to be conducted.

A consultant for the study was expected to be selected in a few months' time, he added.

He said the Government was still putting together the package of proposals to tackle traffic congestion taking into account views expressed by the public during the consultation period.

"An announcement will be made within the next few months," the spokesman said.

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Biotechnology Internship Programme well received

The Biotechnology Internship Programme had received encouraging response from the industry and tertiary and research institutions, with the number of internship places offered increased from 15 last year to more than 40 this year, the Assistant Director-General of Industry, Mr Raymond Young, said today (Friday).

Organised by the Biotechnology Committee of the Industry and Technology Development Council (ITDC), the programme is aimed at upgrading manpower resources for the emerging biotechnology industry in Hong Kong by allowing local tertiary students to acquire industrial exposure prior to their graduation.

"The Internship Programme is organised for the second time this year following the successful completion of the Programme last year. The Biotechnology Committee concluded after a review that the training scheme was successful in better preparing Hong Kong's tertiary students to meet the requirement of the industry," Mr Young said.

"The number of co-sponsoring companies/organisations have also doubled from seven last year to 14 this year.

"Leading biotechnology-related companies such as Amoy Industries (International) Ltd and Amersham (Far East) Trading Ltd have joined the programme for the first time.

"Companies such as Bio-Rad Pacific Ltd. and Hoe Hin Pak Fah Yoew Manufactory Ltd have joined the programme again this year in view of the good performance of the students last year."

Research institutions such as the Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology, the University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology had also offered industry-related applied research and development (R&D) projects for interns, Mr Young added.

In addition, he said, the Hong Kong Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association had taken a lead and co-ordinated its members to offer four postings for interns.

"Nine of the interns will be sent overseas, such as in China, Australia, Taiwan and Singapore," he said.

As in last year, co-sponsoring companies/institutions will be required to contribute at least 50 per cent of the cost of their respective programmes.

"In view of the favourable response, the ITDC has advised that the BC should continue to run the programme in the next three years," Mr Young said.

The 1995 Biotechnology Internship Programme will be implemented between June 15 and September.

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Tsim Sha Tsui development scheme plan published

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The Town Planning Board today (Friday) announced the publication of the draft Land Development Corporation (LDC) Hanoi Road, Tsim Sha Tsui Development Scheme Plan and the associated Land Use Diagram for a proposed redevelopment scheme in the central part of Tsim Sha Tsui.

The Scheme area, with an area of about 0.76 hectares, is bounded by Hanoi Road, Mody Road, Bristol Avenue, Cornwall Avenue and Carnarvon Road. Most of the buildings in the area which is in acute shortage of parking and loading and unloading spaces are five to seven storey composite buildings completed in the 1950's.

"The Scheme area is designated as 'Comprehensive Development Area' to facilitate the LDC to undertake comprehensive redevelopment for the area," a spokesman for the Town Planning Board said.

"The Scheme Plan provides a planning framework for the redevelopment of the Scheme area by restructuring the existing land uses and street patterns. The proposed redevelopment, as shown on the Land Use Diagram, will comprise commercial and public open space uses. The development is envisaged to be in the form of an office and/or hotel tower block(s) above a retail and/or commercial podium. Apart from the provision of lay-bys for private cars, taxis and coaches, parking spaces and loading and unloading facilities would be provided at basement levels to improve the local traffic circulation," he added.

To achieve efficiency in land use, Cornwall Avenue will be closed and turned into a landscaped area. Upon redevelopment, a minimum of 1,200 square metres public open space, including the landscaped area, will be provided at street and podium levels.

LDC will be required to submit a master layout plan for the Scheme area to the Town Planning Board for approval.

The draft Scheme Plan (No. S/K1/LDC1/1) is now available for public inspection until July 12 at:

- * Planning Department,
16th floor,
Murray Building,
Garden Road,
Hong Kong;
- * Kowloon District Planning Office,
11th floor,
Leighton Centre,
77 Leighton Road,
Hong Kong; and
- * Yau Tsim Mong District Office,
sixth floor,
Mong Kok Government Offices,
30 Luen Wan Street,
Mong Kok,
Kowloon.

Any person affected by the Scheme Plan may submit written objection to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Planning Department, 13th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong on or before July 12.

Copies of the draft Scheme Plan are available for sale at the Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong and Kowloon Map Sales Office, ground floor, 382 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

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HK's external trade statistics by country and commodity

The Census and Statistics Department today (Friday) released detailed statistics on external trade with breakdown by country/territory and commodity for March 1995.

The value of re-exports continued to increase substantially, by 22% over a year earlier to \$86.9 billion in March 1995.

Comparing March 1995 with March 1994, the value of re-exports to all of the main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes: Japan (+46%), Canada (+34%), Singapore (+30%), the Netherlands (+26%), the United States (+24%), the United Kingdom (+20%), Taiwan (+19%), China (+15%), Germany (+14%) and South Korea (+4.5%).

Changes in the value of Hong Kong's re-exports to 10 main destinations are shown in Table 1.

The value of re-exports in the first quarter of 1995 was \$240.1 billion, 22% higher than that in the same period in 1994.

Comparing the first quarter of 1995 with the same period in 1994, the value of re-exports to all main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes: Japan (+32%), Singapore (+30%), Canada (+30%), Taiwan (+24%), China (+22%), the Netherlands (+22%), the United States (+21%), South Korea (+17%), the United Kingdom (+7.7%) and Germany (+3.6%).

Table 2 shows changes in the value of re-exports of 10 principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first quarter of 1995 with the same period in 1994, increases of various magnitudes were recorded in the value of re-exports of most principal commodity divisions. More notable increases were registered for telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$8.3 billion or 43%); electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$7.7 billion or 45%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$5.3 billion or 25%); textiles (by \$5.3 billion or 34%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$3.9 billion or 51%); and photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$2.2 billion or 26%).

Over the same period, a decrease in the value of re-exports was recorded for clothing (by \$724 million or 3.6%).

The value of domestic exports in March 1995, at \$17.6 billion, increased by 11% over a year earlier.

Comparing March 1995 with March 1994, increases were recorded in the value of domestic exports to Japan (+33%), Taiwan (+26%), Canada (+16%), the United Kingdom (+16%), the Philippines (+14%), the United States (+10%), the Netherlands (+8.8%) and China (+3.9%).

However, the value of domestic exports to Singapore and Germany decreased slightly by 0.7% and 0.5% respectively.

Changes in the value of domestic exports to 10 main destinations are shown in Table 3.

Comparing the first quarter of 1995 with the same period in 1994, the value of domestic exports to most main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes: Japan (+35%), Taiwan (+19%), the Philippines (+16%), the Netherlands (+14%), Singapore (+13%), Canada (+12%), the United States (+11%), China (+11%) and the United Kingdom (+6.6%).

However, the value of domestic exports to Germany decreased slightly by 1.8%.

Taking all destinations together, the value of domestic exports in the first quarter of 1995, at \$50.6 billion, increased markedly, by 13% over the same period in 1994.

Table 4 shows changes in the value of domestic exports of 10 principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first quarter of 1995 with the same period in 1994, increases of various magnitudes were recorded in the value of domestic exports of all principal commodity divisions. More notable increases were registered for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$1.4 billion or 26%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$1.3 billion or 34%); clothing (by \$1.3 billion or 9.9%); photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$610 million or 19%); plastics in primary forms (by \$278 million or 34%); professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus (by \$232 million or 54%); and miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of jewellery, goldsmiths' and silversmiths' wares (by \$213 million or 5.0%).

The value of imports continued to increase substantially, by 26% over a year earlier to \$121.6 billion in March 1995.

Changes in the value of imports from 10 main suppliers are shown in Table 5.

Comparing March 1995 with March 1994, the value of imports from all main suppliers showed increases of various magnitudes: Singapore (+62%), Malaysia (+52%), South Korea (+37%), the United States (+32%), Taiwan (+29%), China (+27%), Japan (+17%), the United Kingdom (+14%), France (+7.5%) and Germany (+6.7%).

Comparing the first quarter 1995 with the same period in 1994, the value of imports from all main suppliers showed increases of various magnitudes: France (+86%), Singapore (+58%), Malaysia (+42%), South Korea (+39%), the United States (+30%), Taiwan (+29%), Japan (+24%), China (+23%), the United Kingdom (+19%) and Germany (+17%).

The value of imports in the first quarter of 1995, at \$326.3 billion, increased markedly, by 27% over the same period in 1994.

Table 6 shows changes in the value of imports of 10 principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first quarter of 1995 with the same period in 1994, increases were recorded in the value of imports of all principal commodity divisions. More notable increases were registered for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$11.5 billion or 41%); telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$8.9 billion or 36%); textiles (by \$6.9 billion or 29%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$4.4 billion or 49%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$3.8 billion or 23%); photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$2.7 billion or 23%); and footwear (by \$1.8 billion or 16%).

All the trade statistics described here are measured at current prices and no account has been taken of changes in prices between the periods of comparison.

A separate analysis of the volume and price movements of external trade for March 1995 will be released early next month.

Detailed trade statistics analysed by commodity and by country/ territory are published in trade statistics reports.

The March 1995 issue of the "Hong Kong External Trade" with detailed analyses on the performance of Hong Kong's external trade in March 1995 will be available for sale at \$122 per copy around May 23.

The report can be purchased either at the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, or the Publications Section of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Enquiries regarding regular subscription to this report may be directed to the Publications (Sales) Office, 28th Floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong (Tel No. 2598 8194) and enquiries on trade statistics to the Census and Statistics Department (Tel No. 2582 4915).

TABLE 1 : RE-EXPORTS TO TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	MAR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	MAR 95 OVER MAR 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-MAR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-MAR 95 OVER JAN-MAR 94 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	32,778	+ 15.5	84,572	+ 21.8
UNITED STATES	16,032	+ 24.0	47,297	+ 21.1
JAPAN	5,541	+ 45.8	14,695	+ 31.8
GERMANY	3,303	+ 13.9	9,995	+ 3.6
TAIWAN	2,253	+ 18.9	6,256	+ 24.4
UNITED KINGDOM	2,198	+ 19.8	6,252	+ 7.7
SINGAPORE	2,021	+ 30.4	5,602	+ 30.3
SOUTH KOREA	1,603	+ 4.5	4,454	+ 16.9
NETHERLANDS	1,255	+ 25.9	3,721	+ 21.5
CANADA	1,164	+ 34.1	3,652	+ 30.1

TABLE 2 : RE-EXPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	MAR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	MAR 95 OVER MAR 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-MAR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-MAR 95 OVER JAN-MAR 94 (% CHANGE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	9,632	+ 38.2	27,816	+ 42.6
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	9,307	+ 28.3	26,482	+ 25.1
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	8,724	+ 35.9	24,593	+ 45.4
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	8,282	+ 32.2	21,058	+ 33.5
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6,345	+ 15.7	19,424	- 3.6
FOOTWEAR	4,430	+ 19.5	14,207	+ 16.4
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	4,397	+ 58.8	11,609	+ 51.2
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	3,830	+ 27.0	10,736	+ 25.9
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	2,693	+ 30.5	7,573	+ 18.4
GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS	2,820	+ 21.9	6,852	+ 23.8

TABLE 3 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	MAR . 1995 (HKD Mn.)	MAR 95 OVER MAR 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-MAR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-MAR 95 OVER JAN-MAR 94 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	5,211	+ 3.9	13,700	+ 10.6
UNITED STATES	4,052	+ 10.4	12,218	+ 10.9
SINGAPORE	1,055	- 0.7	3,119	+ 13.2
JAPAN	1,200	+ 33.3	3,068	+ 35.4
GERMANY	756	- 0.5	2,588	- 1.8
UNITED KINGDOM	726	+ 15.5	2,229	+ 6.6
TAIWAN	630	+ 26.1	1,642	+ 18.9
NETHERLANDS	364	+ 8.8	1,158	+ 14.0
CANADA	277	+ 16.3	952	+ 11.6
PHILIPPINES	295	+ 13.9	772	+ 16.4

TABLE 4 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	MAR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	MAR 95 OVER MAR 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-MAR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-MAR 95 OVER JAN-MAR 94 (% CHANGE)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	4,327	+ 19.5	14,132	+ 9.9
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	2,373	+ 13.0	6,610	+ 25.9
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	1,759	+ 23.4	4,994	+ 34.3
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,682	+ 1.5	4,448	+ 5.0
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,352	+ 16.6	3,866	+ 18.7
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,205	+ 2.4	3,169	+ 0.3
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	903	- 12.8	2,617	+ 5.4
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	413	+ 21.7	1,091	+ 34.2
MANUFACTURES OF METALS	425	+ 12.1	1,058	+ 3.6
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS	250	+ 68.9	658	+ 54.4

TABLE 5 : IMPORTS FROM TEN MAIN SUPPLIERS

SUPPLIER	MAR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	MAR 95 OVER MAR 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-MAR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-MAR 95 OVER JAN-MAR 94 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	42,758	+ 26.8	115,350	+ 23.5
JAPAN	19,528	+ 17.2	51,302	+ 24.3
TAIWAN	11,133	+ 28.8	28,297	+ 28.5
UNITED STATES	8,870	+ 31.7	23,948	+ 30.0
SINGAPORE	6,557	+ 62.2	17,631	+ 57.5
SOUTH KOREA	6,374	+ 37.0	16,623	+ 38.7
GERMANY	2,619	+ 6.7	7,308	+ 17.2
UNITED KINGDOM	2,289	+ 14.0	6,497	+ 18.5
FRANCE	1,461	+ 7.5	6,429	+ 85.5
MALAYSIA	2,190	+ 52.1	6,049	+ 42.3

TABLE 6 : IMPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	MAR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	MAR 95 OVER MAR 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-MAR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-MAR 95 OVER JAN-MAR 94 (% CHANGE)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	14,067	+ 30.9	39,482	+ 41.1
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	11,563	+ 26.6	33,334	+ 36.2
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	12,151	+ 27.9	30,358	+ 29.4
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	7,797	+ 25.1	20,566	+ 22.7
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	7,529	+ 16.1	20,276	+ 2.7
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	5,298	+ 17.0	14,484	+ 23.3
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	5,034	+ 45.8	13,581	+ 48.7
FOOTWEAR	4,281	+ 18.4	12,533	+ 16.4
ROAD VEHICLES	4,468	+ 6.3	11,164	+ 4.4
NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	4,368	+ 16.7	10,649	+ 14.1

End/Friday, May 12, 1995

Heritage Trust and Philharmonic Society members appointed

* * * * *

The Governor has appointed Mr Andrew Dixon as a member of the Council of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust.

Mr Dixon's term will run from May 1, 1995, to March 31, 1997.

It is also announced that Mr Vincent Chow Wing-shing has been appointed a member of the General Committee of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Society with effect from June 1 until further notice.

The above appointments are published in the Government gazette today (Friday).

End/Friday, May 12, 1995

Rating (Amendment) Ordinance 1995

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Certain provisions contained in the Rating (Amendment) Ordinance 1995 were gazetted to come into effect today (Friday).

The new ordinance streamlines procedures and the administration of the rating system.

"Various technical amendments have been introduced today to streamline the procedures for rates assessment, service of notices and rating appeals," a spokesman for the Rating and Valuation Department said.

"For instance, to avoid ambiguity, appeal procedures will now follow the provisions of the Lands Tribunal Ordinance and Rules.

"To help contain costs being awarded against them, parties to an appeal before the Lands Tribunal may, before the appeal is decided, lodge a sealed offer of settlement.

"Additionally, when ratepayers appeal to the Lands Tribunal, the Commissioner of Rating and Valuation may allow in certain circumstances payment of all or part of the rates to be held over, pending a decision on the appeal."

The spokesman explained that the other major changes would probably take place on July 1.

"It is planned that the Commissioner of Rating and Valuation would take over the responsibility for rates billing and collection from the Treasury on 1 July 1995," the spokesman said.

Currently the Commissioner is responsible for the assessment of rateable values, and the Treasury, for the billing and collection of rates.

"This segregation of responsibility is inefficient and ratepayers are often unsure which department they should contact in case of enquiries", the spokesman said.

"The transfer of responsibility will optimise the resources of the Treasury and the Rating and Valuation Department and enable the Commissioner to provide a one-stop service for ratepayers."

Another change scheduled for July 1 is the abolition of the half refund of rates presently allowed for vacant non- domestic premises. However vacant open land and vacancies resulting from court orders obtained by the Government will remain eligible for full refunds.

"Ratepayers are reminded that for the time being the existing procedures for vacancy refunds continue," the spokesman said.

"Ratepayers must serve a notice in writing not later than the 15th day of the month for which they intend to claim a refund."

"New non-domestic properties assessed to rates after the date of cancellation (probably July 1, 1995), but whose effective date of interim valuation is before that date, may still claim refunds for vacant periods before the abolition," the spokesman added.

Ratepayers of vacant properties in the department's register at the date of abolition will be individually notified of the changes. If members of the public wish to have more information, they can contact the department on 2805 7666.

End/Friday, May 12, 1995

Report by Standing Commission on Civil Service ready

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The Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service, chaired by Sir Sidney Gordon, has published its progress report for 1994 (Report No. 31).

During the year, the Commission tendered advice on four improvement proposals made by the Administration dealing with individual grades.

These include the creation of a new Primary School Master grade in the Education Department and a new rank of Assistant Cartographer in the Cartographer grade; the implementation of alternative appointment requirements for Personal Secretary II and the introduction of a special allowance for the Social Secretary and Housekeeper in Government House.

In addition, the Commission also examined and endorsed a number of other proposals made by the Administration.

These include improvement of the Home Financing Scheme; introduction of flexible contract terms for non-Public Service Commission posts; implementation of a new set of common terms of appointment and conditions of service for future civil service recruits; introduction of an allowance for officers required for "on call" duty; and implementation of Human Resource Management Review proposals on recruitment.

During the year, members of the Commission held informal discussions with major staff associations to keep abreast of development of issues of concern to the civil service.

The report also contains a description of the functions and composition of the Pay Trend Survey Committee, a brief account of the 1993-94 Pay Trend Survey and minor modification to the methodology to be adopted for the pay trend survey in 1994-95.

The Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service is an advisory body appointed by the Governor to advise and make recommendations on the principles and practices governing pay and conditions of service and salary structure of the non-directorate civil service, other than the Judiciary and Disciplined Services.

The progress report is now on sale at the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Lower Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

End/Friday, May 12, 1995

Promotions in the administrative service announced

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The Government announced today (Friday) the substantive promotion of 15 officers to Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (AOSGC) and 26 officers to Senior Administrative Officer (SAO) in the Administrative Service with effect from April 1, 1995.

"I am delighted to see that we have on this occasion promoted a total of 41 young and capable officers who have the ability and commitment to serve the community through the transitional period and beyond. This is certainly a good sign for the future," the Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Michael Sze, said at a ceremony to present promotion letters to the officers.

"Staff Grade C is the first directorate rank in the Administrative Service. It is therefore a particularly important step in an officer's career.

"I am very happy to see that a group of young officers who have demonstrated their abilities to handle a wide range of very challenging responsibilities, have been promoted to the SAO rank which is also a relatively senior level in the Civil Service," Mr Sze said.

Officers at Staff Grade C rank normally fill the posts of Principal Assistant Secretary in the Government Secretariat, District Officer in the Home Affairs Department, or Assistant Director in Departments.

In this promotion exercise, the average age of officers promoted to Staff Grade C is 36 and those to SAO is 30.

End/Friday, May 12, 1995

Improvement to roads in Kwun Tong

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The Highways Department is inviting tenders for the reconstruction of Sau Ming Road and part of Sau Mau Ping Road to improve road riding conditions and to upgrade the road drainage system.

The works include reconstruction of Sau Ming Road; reconstruction of Sau Mau Ping Road section from Sau Ming Road to Block 32 of Sau Mau Ping Estate; and ancillary drainage and landscaping works.

Construction is scheduled to commence in August this year and is expected to be completed in about 14 months, except landscaping works.

A notice on the tender invitation was published in the Gazette today (Friday).

Forms of tender and further particulars may be obtained from the Regional Highway Engineer/Kowloon, Highways Department, 13th floor, room 1321, Nan Fung Commercial Centre, 19 Lam Lok Street, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon. Enquiries can be made on 2707 7422.

Tenders must be clearly marked and addressed to the Chairman, Central Tender Board, and placed in the Government Secretariat Tender Box at the lift lobby on the lower ground floor of the Central Government Offices (East Wing), Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong, before noon on June 9.

Late tenders will not be accepted.

The works have been designed and will be supervised by the Highways Department.

End/Friday, May 12, 1995

New clinic for Tseung Kwan O

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for the construction of a three-storey clinic with a gross floor area of 3,220 square metres in Tseung Kwan O, New Territories.

Works include the construction of an out-patient department with four rooms on the ground floor; a maternal and child health centre with two consulting rooms on the first floor; and a dental clinic on the second floor.

Construction works are expected to start in August for completion in September next year.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Architectural Services Department, 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Tender offers will close at noon on June 16.

End/Friday, May 12, 1995

Kennedy Town and Mount Davis OZP amended

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The Town Planning Board today (Friday) announced amendments to the draft Kennedy Town and Mount Davis Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) No. S/H1/5.

One of the amendments is to designate the area proposed for the Island West Refuse Transfer Station (IWTS) in a cavern under Mount Davis to 'Green Belt (Sub-area 1)' and 'Village Type Development (Sub-area 1)', and to rezone the site previously reserved for the IWTS back to 'Green Belt' and 'Village Type Development'.

The amendment is to facilitate the implementation of the IWTS scheme selected by the Government, which is a more cost-effective and desirable development option from land use, environmental, engineering, operational and programming points of view as compared with the one shown on the previous OZP No. S/H1/5.

Another amendment is to rezone the two abattoir staff quarters sites at Ka Wai Man Road, with a total site area of about 0.41 hectare, from 'Government/Institution/Community' to 'Residential (Group A)' ('R(A)'). As the two staff quarters sites are no longer required for their original use and will be vacated soon, they are rezoned to 'R(A)' to provide land for residential development.

The amendment plan (No. S/H1/6) is available for public inspection until June 2 at:

- * Planning Department,
16th floor, Murray Building,
Garden Road,
Hong Kong;
- * Hong Kong District Planning Office,
11th floor, Leighton Centre,
77 Leighton Road,
Hong Kong; and
- * Central and Western District Office,
Public Enquiry Service Centre,
ground floor, Harbour Building,
38 Pier Road,
Hong Kong.

Any person affected by the amendment plan may submit written objection to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Planning Department, 13th floor, Murray Building before June 2.

Copies of the draft plan can also be bought at the Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, and Kowloon Map Sales Office, ground floor, 382 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

End/Friday, May 12, 1995

Land to be resumed for flood control works

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The Government will resume 85 private agricultural lots with a total area of 107,676.5 square metres in Yuen Long, New Territories, for the construction of a floodway and a concrete nullah for the Kam Tin Area.

The works are expected to start in November and will take 36 months to complete.

The Kam Tin Basin of Yuen Long has long been susceptible to flooding, and the Government has proposed an extensive programme to alleviate the flooding problem in the river catchment area of Kam Tin. The works form the second phase of the Kam Tin river programme to construct a drainage channel to replace the existing zigzagging river channel.

Landowners affected by the resumption will be offered ex gratia compensation. The Yuen Long District Lands Office will also assess other items of ex gratia compensation payable under the resumption.

Details of resumption were notified in the gazette today (Friday).

The land will be reverted to the Government three months after the Gazette Notice.

End/Friday, May 12, 1995

Eligible electors of old FCs reminded to register

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The Chairman of the Boundary and Election Commission, Mr Justice WOO Kwok-hing, today (Friday) reminded all eligible electors of former functional constituencies (FCs) constituted by "Corporate Electors" to register at once.

"There will not be any 'rolling-over' arrangements for 'corporate electors' to vote in the old FCs. You must register afresh before our deadline of June 1," Mr Justice Woo said.

"Corporate electors" will be abolished for the 1995 Legislative Council Elections. Those "authorised representatives" who represented their organisations and voted in the 1991 LegCo FC elections can no longer do so.

The franchise of these FCs has been broadened and the voting right will now go to individual persons who fulfil the statutory requirements.

"If you are one of such persons and wish to vote in the forthcoming LegCo FC elections, you must make a new application which must reach the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) by June 1 this year," the Chairman said.

So far, only 2,136 such persons registered with REO, against a potential pool of electors of 32,444.

Publicity through the electronic and printed media will be stepped up.

The Chairman had also written to the 10 Legislative Councillors of the FCs seeking their assistance in appealing to their constituents to register. The REO staff is telephoning all organisations and companies concerned to remind the potential electors to register.

He added that those electors already registered on individual qualifications in the old FCs such as education, legal and accountancy, need not register again.

End/Friday, May 12, 1995

Tips for summer job seekers

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Students wishing to take up summer jobs are advised to watch out for employment traps and familiarise themselves with basic labour and industrial safety laws.

Senior Labour Officer (Employment Services), Mr Raymond Chan, today (Friday) offered the following six tips on avoiding employment traps :

* Be careful of dubious recruitment advertisements, especially those require no skill or academic qualifications but promise a high pay;

- * During a job interview, be alert of whether the offer is genuine;
- * Avoid accepting jobs with possible immoral implications and which infringe the law;
- * Be careful in signing any contract;
- * Consider carefully before accepting any demand from the employer on monetary guarantee, or payment of cash either for training purposes or purchasing goods;
- * In case of doubt or problems, consult parents, careers teachers or appropriate authorities immediately.

Mr Chan said the Labour Department had produced a new poster to alert the public, especially students, of employment traps.

The first-ever Summer Job Bazaar tailor-made for summer job seekers will be held in Sha Tin Town Hall on June 7.

To enhance public awareness of employment traps, the department staged an exhibition in the 5th Education and Careers Expo in February. Booklets have been distributed to students through secondary schools and youth organisations while exhibits on employment traps are being displayed in all Local Employment Service Offices.

On labour law for summer job seekers, Senior Labour Officer (Labour Relations Promotion), Mrs Bernadette Lai, said a booklet had been produced for this target group.

The booklet outlines restrictions governing the employment age, working hours and types of jobs which children could not do under the Employment of Children Regulations.

The employment conditions of young people between 15 and 18 years of age in industrial establishments under the Women and Young Persons (Industry) Regulations are also included.

There are some salient points on employment relationship and employment contract covering the termination of contract, holidays, rest days, sick leave and payment of wages.

"To make the booklet more appealing to young job-seekers, cartoons have been incorporated into the text," Mrs Lai said.

Some 30,000 copies of the booklet have been distributed to secondary schools through the Education Department and 12,000 copies were distributed at the 5th Education and Careers Expo.

The booklet will also be distributed at exhibitions to be held in City University and Baptist University this month and at the Summer Job Bazaar.

"The public can also obtain the booklet from all the offices of the Labour Relations Service and Local Employment Service," Mrs Lai added.

A video highlighting the rights and obligations of an employee under an employment contract will also be shown at the Summer Job Bazaar.

Superintendent of Factory Inspectors (Training), Mr Yam Kwong-lun, said the number of industrial accidents involving summer job students last year decreased slightly.

"In 1993, 18 summer workers were injured and another died in industrial accidents. Last year, 17 summer workers were injured," he said.

Noting that most of the industrial accidents were related to the operation of machinery, fall of person and handling of hot or corrosive substances, Mr Yam urged students to stay away from these potentially dangerous jobs.

"Jobs which require the operation of wood-working machinery, the handling of chemicals, toxic substances or fire-related processes are not suitable for summer job students as they have no proper training," he said.

Young persons under 18 years of age are not allowed to operate any lifting appliances driven by mechanical power or give signals to the driver of the appliance. They are also prohibited from cleaning any dangerous part of machinery in notifiable workplaces.

Moreover, the law forbids untrained young persons to work on construction sites.

"Students who want to work in catering establishments should exercise extra care to avoid work injuries as they might be required to use sharp knives or hot cooking equipment on a potentially slippery floor," Mr Yam added.

End/Friday, May 12, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
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Opening balance in the account	2,506	0930	+2
Closing balance in the account	2,453	1000	+2
Change attributable to :		1100	-3
Money market activity	-3	1200	-3
LAF today	-50	1500	-3
		1600	-3

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 119.0 **+0.8* 12.5.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills

EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds

Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.58	19 months	2611	6.90	101.06	6.25
1 month	5.62	22 months	2702	7.50	102.09	6.33
3 months	5.72	30 months	3710	7.25	101.67	6.61
6 months	5.80	36 months	3804	6.90	100.61	6.78
12 months	5.96	59 months	5003	7.75	102.36	7.29

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$11,718 million

Closed May 12, 1995

End/Friday, May 12, 1995