



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Governor sends congratulations to Lee Lai-shan

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, who is now on holiday in Europe, today (Monday) sends his congratulations to Lee Lai-shan on winning the Gold medal in the Mistral class yachting event at the Atlanta Games.

"This is a magnificent personal achievement for Lee Lai-shan and a tremendous achievement for Hong Kong."

Mr Patten said: "Like everyone in Hong Kong, I'm delighted to hear the news of her success".

He also complimented all those involved in the coaching and preparation for the event, as well as all the members of the Hong Kong team.

"They have all done a great deal to represent Hong Kong," he said.

End

Acting Governor congratulates Olympics gold medallist

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The Acting Governor, Mr Donald Tsang, extended his congratulations on behalf of the people of Hong Kong to Ms Lee Lai-shan who has just won a gold medal in the Women's wind-surfing event at Atlanta this (Monday) morning.

Mr Tsang told Ms Lee over the phone immediately after the competition that Hong Kong people are extremely happy to learn that she had won for the territory the first gold medal since its participation in the Olympic Games in Helsinki in 1952.

" I know you have faced a lot of challenges during the competition, but you have overcome all of them in an unyielding spirit to bring home a gold medal.

" All of us in Hong Kong are proud of you and your achievements. I wish you every success in the future," Mr Tsang said.

He also hoped that other Hong Kong athletes in Atlanta will follow Ms Lee's example and do their best in the Olympics.

End

Remarks by Acting Governor

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Following is the transcript of the remarks (English) made to the media by the Acting Governor, Mr Donald Tsang, after officiating at the opening of the Conference of the International Council on Social Welfare this (Monday) afternoon:

Question: Mr Tsang, can you say a few words in English about Lee Lai-shan ... a gold medal?

Mr Tsang: Well, I've been living in the clouds for the last 24 hours; I've been watching Ms Lee performing to this great glory. I think she's put in quite a lot. We're very proud of her. She has fought very patiently and very steadily throughout the competition. I think she reflects I think the highest level of Hong Kong spirit. You know we have participated in the Olympic movement for 44 years now. This is the first time we've got a medal -- and a gold at that and is won by a Hong Kong girl of all things. So I'm exceedingly proud like most of us in Hong Kong and I hope all the other sportsmen will continue to do well. Our object is not necessarily to win medal; to just to make sure that Hong Kong people will continue to try their best within our limitations.

Question: ... Mr Patten sent her telegram ...?

Mr Tsang: He is somewhere in Salzburg. I don't know whether ... I'm sure his heart is with Ms Lee and like many of us.

End

Social services for a city in transition

* * * * *

The Acting Governor, Mr Donald Tsang, said today (Monday) that the Government will continue to improve social services for those in need and to work with the non-governmental sector in Hong Kong to develop a comprehensive network of welfare services.

Speaking at the 27th International Conference of the International Council on Social Welfare, Mr Tsang said Hong Kong had developed a very successful and constructive partnership with the dynamic non-governmental sector.

"This partnership has made it possible for us to bring about a huge expansion in the delivery of services to the needy in the past five years."

He said economic development in the past three decades had dramatically improved the welfare of hundreds of millions of Asian men, women and children.

"This record of sustained economic growth and close to full employment for most of this period have been essence of our rising standard of living."

Mr Tsang said improved public services in the form of subsidised housing, health care and education, as well as improving social welfare provision, had helped improve Hong Kong people's quality of life.

"In the past five years, we have increased expenditure on social welfare by 65 per cent in real terms.

"We are specially fortunate that we can afford to devote additional resources to our social welfare services without putting a strain on our budget or pressure on the taxpayer.

"I believe we have struck a constructive balance between helping those in need and doing so in a way that we can afford, in a way which supports rather than undermines the dignity of the people receiving help, and in a way which discourages any long-term dependency on public assistance.

"Hong Kong is certainly not a welfare state. Nor is it slipping and sliding in that direction. Our public expenditure controls will make sure that never happens."

He said in social work as in all else it does, Hong Kong is forward looking and optimistic in its approach.

"Our society continues to change at a quite breathtaking rate, we are constantly reviewing what we have done and what we will need to do. None of this will stop in 1997 when sovereignty changes."

Mr Tsang said the Joint Declaration provides for the continuation of Hong Kong's present free market, free speech and way of life.

"I, and the people of Hong Kong know that we shall have to rise to the challenge of the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law.

"This community continues to have faith in its ability to shape its own future and its government has gone on governing and making massive long-term investments upon which Hong Kong's future success will depend.

"This is not a community which has lost faith in itself or in its future. Ours is not a government which has been paralysed by doubt or indecision."

End

Ocean vessel and seaborne cargo statistics

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In the first quarter of 1996, 9,862 ocean vessels with a total capacity of 43.4 million net registered tons arrived at Hong Kong, according to the statistics released today (Monday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Net registered ton (NRT) is a unit of measure in volume terms of the space of a vessel available for carrying passengers or goods. One NRT is equivalent to 100 cubic feet.

Compared with the first quarter of 1995, these figures reflected an increase of 6% in number of vessels and 11% in capacity.

During the same period, there were 9,875 outgoing ocean vessels with a total capacity of 43.3 million net registered tons, representing an increase of 5% in number and 9% in capacity over the first quarter of 1995.

In the first quarter of 1996, the total tonnage of seaborne inward cargo comprising seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment, was estimated to be 19.9 million tonnes, representing an increase of 3% over the same quarter in 1995. Within these cargoes, the tonnage of seaborne imports grew by 3%, while that of seaborne inward transshipment had little changed.

During the same period, the total tonnage of seaborne outward cargo comprising seaborne exports (domestic exports plus re-exports) and seaborne outward transshipment, was estimated to be 8.8 million tonnes, representing a decrease of 1% over the same quarter in 1995.

The decline was concentrated in seaborne exports, which fell by 5%. On the other hand, having shown substantial increases for eight consecutive quarters, the total tonnage of seaborne outward transshipment grew by 4%.

Of the seaborne inward cargo, 82% in terms of tonnage were seaborne imports and 18% were seaborne inward transshipment. 54% of these cargoes were containerised.

Of the seaborne outward cargo, 54% in terms of tonnage were seaborne exports (domestic exports plus re-exports) and 46% were seaborne outward transshipment. Eighty nine per cent of them were containerised cargo.

The above statistics are summarised in Table 1.

In the first quarter of 1996, the top five countries of loading for seaborne inward cargo (comprising seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment) were Singapore (which accounted for 19% in tonnage terms), Japan (14%), China (10%), Taiwan (10%) and USA (9%).

The top five countries of discharge for seaborne outward cargo (comprising seaborne exports and seaborne outward transshipment) were China (24%), USA (18%), Taiwan (6%), Japan (6%) and the Federal Republic of Germany (5%).

The top five principal commodities of seaborne inward cargo in tonnage terms include petroleum, petroleum products and related materials (21%); artificial resins and plastic materials (8%); iron and steel (8%); coal coke and briquettes (7%) and paper and paper products (6%).

The top five principal commodities of seaborne outward cargo in tonnage terms include machinery (12%); other manufactured goods classified chiefly by material (10%); other manufactured articles (7%); petroleum, petroleum products and related materials (5%) and artificial resins and plastic materials (5%).

The distribution of the top 10 countries of loading and discharge and their changes in the tonnage of seaborne inward and outward cargo between the first quarter of 1996 and the first quarter of 1995 are shown in Table 2 and Table 3.

Similar statistics for seaborne inward and outward cargo analysed by the top 10 principal commodities are shown in Table 4 and Table 5.

Ocean vessel statistics are compiled primarily from general declarations submitted to the Marine Department by ship masters or authorised shipping agents and cover all ocean vessels entering and leaving Hong Kong, excluding yachts and pleasure craft.

Seaborne cargo statistics are compiled from a sample of consignments listed in the ocean cargo manifests supplied by shipping companies or agents to the Census and Statistics Department. The sampling method is described in the explanatory notes of the report.

More details of ocean vessel and seaborne cargo statistics for the first quarter of 1996 are contained in the report - Hong Kong Shipping Statistics, January-March 1996 - which is published in bilingual form.

The report is now on sale at \$66 per copy at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, and the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department on 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries on statistics contained in the report may be directed to the Shipping and Cargo Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2582 4887.

Table 1: Summary of ocean vessel and seaborne cargo statistics

	1st quarter <u>1996</u>	% change over 1st quarter <u>1995</u>
Incoming ocean vessel		
Number	9 862	+6
Capacity (Mn. net registered tons)	43.4	+11
Seaborne inward cargo (Mn. tonnes)	19.9 (54)	+3
Seaborne imports (Mn. tonnes)	16.3 (45)	+3
Seaborne inward transshipment (Mn. tonnes)	3.6 (97)	*
Outgoing ocean vessel		
Number	9 875	+5
Capacity (Mn. net registered tons)	43.3	+9
Seaborne outward cargo (Mn. tonnes)	8.8 (89)	-1
Seaborne exports (Mn. tonnes) (domestic exports plus re-exports)	4.8 (80)	-5
Seaborne outward transshipment (Mn. tonnes)	4.0 (99)	+4

Notes: (1) Figures in brackets denote the extent of containerization in percentage.

(2) * Less than 0.5%.

Table 2: Seaborne inward cargo⁽¹⁾ by top ten countries of loading

<u>Country of loading</u>	Ist quarter	<u>% share⁽²⁾</u>	<u>% change over</u>
	<u>1996</u>		<u>1st quarter 1995</u>
	('000 tonnes)		
Singapore	3 752	19	-4
Japan	2 819	14	+14
China	1 993	10	-16
Taiwan	1 983	10	-4
U.S.A.	1 878	9	+30
Republic of Korea	1 135	6	-27
Indonesia	846	4	+48
Australia	742	4	-27
Republic of South Africa	459	2	-2
Thailand	449	2	-16

Notes: (1) Seaborne inward cargo comprises seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment.

(2) % share is the share in tonnage terms with respect to the total tonnage of seaborne inward cargo.

Table 3: Seaborne outward cargo⁽¹⁾ by top ten countries of discharge

<u>Country of discharge</u>	1st quarter		% change over
	<u>1996</u>	<u>% share⁽²⁾</u>	<u>1st quarter 1995</u>
	('000 tonnes)		
China	2 133	24	+12
U.S.A.	1 545	18	-5
Taiwan	572	6	-18
Japan	524	6	-4
Federal Republic of Germany	427	5	+3
Singapore	374	4	-6
Netherlands	366	4	-1
Philippines	225	3	-15
United Kingdom	213	2	-15
Thailand	209	2	-23

Notes: (1) Seaborne outward cargo comprises seaborne exports (domestic exports plus re-exports) and seaborne outward transshipment.

(2) % share is the share in tonnage terms with respect to the total tonnage of seaborne outward cargo.

Table 4: Seaborne inward cargo⁽¹⁾ by top ten principal commodities

<u>Commodity group</u>	<u>1st quarter</u>		<u>% change over</u>
	<u>1996</u>	<u>% share⁽²⁾</u>	<u>1st quarter 1995</u>
	('000 tonnes)		
Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	4 278	21	-6
Artificial resins and plastic materials	1 658	8	+13
Iron and steel	1 510	8	+8
Coal, coke and briquettes	1 312	7	-19
Paper and paper products	1 141	6	+45
Cement and cement clinker	992	5	+36
Other manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	949	5	-8
Machinery	933	5	+3
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	599	3	-2
Organic chemicals	561	3	+26

- Notes: (1) Seaborne inward cargo comprises seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment.
(2) % share is the share in tonnage terms with respect to the total tonnage of seaborne inward cargo.

Table 5: Seaborne outward cargo⁽¹⁾ by top ten principal commodities

<u>Commodity group</u>	1st quarter	<u>% share⁽²⁾</u>	<u>% change over</u>
	<u>1996</u> ('000 tonnes)		<u>1st quarter 1995</u>
Machinery	1 068	12	+10
Other manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	921	10	+3
Other manufactured articles	588	7	-12
Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	482	5	-6
Artificial resins, and plastic materials	408	5	+64
Toys	404	5	+17
Footwear	352	4	+5
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	325	4	-9
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	312	4	-10
Plastic manufactures, n.e.s.	255	3	+34

Notes: (1) Seaborne outward cargo comprises seaborne exports (domestic exports plus re-exports) and seaborne outward transshipment.

(2) % share is the share in tonnage terms with respect to the total tonnage of seaborne outward cargo.

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Central hotline for S6 admission

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A central hotline will be set up to handle enquiries on the Secondary Six admission procedure for 1996-97 school year when the results of the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination are released.

Principal Education Officer, Mr C K Tam, said: "The hotline will operate from August 7 (Wednesday), Stage I of the admission procedure, to August 17 (Saturday), the end of Stage V.

"The hotline is manned by education officers to advise students on the admission procedure and to handle any complaints."

The numbers of central hotline are 2782 7037 to 2782 7039 and 2782 7340. They will be operating from 9 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 5 pm on weekdays and 9 am to noon on Saturdays.

End

Services for Chinese immigrant children

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District education offices unable to find a school place for any Chinese immigrant child within 21 school days will refer the case to the Central Placement Unit (CPU) of the Education Department for assistance.

"The establishment of the CPU is to improve the arrangement of school placement," Principal Education Officer, Mr C K Tam, said today (Monday).

"Since its establishment in February, no referral has been made to the CPU showing that all district education offices manage to find places for suitable school age children immigrated from China within the time limit," he added.

"Some 4,800 children had been successfully placed to schools by district education offices since December 1994," Mr Tam added.

Apart from offering formal school education to newly arrived Chinese immigrant children, induction and extension courses are also organised by voluntary agencies throughout the territory. The courses, subsidised by the Education Department, are free of charge.

A total of 4,831 children had attended induction courses held in 46 operating centres since 1995. About 2,400 immigrant children had taken extension courses aiming at improving their English standard.

Furthermore, the production of a self-learning package on English at Primary One to Primary Three level for immigrant children is in good progress and it is expected to be distributed early next year.

A leaflet in simplified Chinese characters outlining their education opportunities in Hong Kong has been distributed to entry checkpoints at Lo Wu and China Ferry Terminal, and to Immigration Department's Registration of Persons Kowloon Office at Empire Centre, where Chinese immigrants obtain their Hong Kong identity documents.

The leaflet is also available at district offices and district education offices.

End

US stamps on Olympic Games and James Dean for sale

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The miniature sheets of Centennial Olympic Games and of James Dean together with the 1995 Annual Album issued by the United States Postal Service will be on sale from Thursday (August 1), the Assistant Postmaster General, Mr Allan Chiang, announced today (Monday).

They will be available at the following eight philatelic offices:

Airport Post Office
General Post Office
Granville Road Post Office
Harcourt Road Post Office
Peak Post Office
Sha Tin Central Post Office
Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office
Tsuen Wan Post Office

The Centennial Olympic Games miniature sheet, depicting 20 different sports, and the James Dean miniature sheet, together with a note "James Dean - the Legends of Hollywood", both consist of a pane of 20 stamps at US\$0.32 each.

The 1995 Annual Album contains a full collection of special stamps issued in 1995.

The price and the sales restriction per customer queuing on the first day of sale are as follows:

<u>Product</u>	<u>Selling price</u>	<u>Sales restriction</u>
Centennial Olympic Games Miniature Sheet	HK\$50	10 sheets
James Dean Miniature Sheet	HK\$50	10 sheets
The 1995 Annual Album	HK\$312	2 books

End

Water storage figure

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Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 95.1 per cent of capacity or 557.311 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 468.086 million cubic metres of water, representing 79.9 per cent of capacity.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
Opening balance in the account	2,095	0930	-137
Closing balance in the account	1,958	1000	-137
Change attributable to :		1100	-137
Money market activity	-137	1200	-137
LAF today	Nil	1500	-142
		1600	-137

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.0 *+0.0* 29.7.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.97	2 years	2805	6.30	100.08	6.34
1 month	5.05	3 years	3907	6.80	100.28	6.81
3 months	5.23	5 years	5106	7.23	99.79	7.41
6 months	5.42	7 years	7305	7.60	100.08	7.73
12 months	5.83	5 years	M502	7.30	99.47	7.58

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$12,858 million

Closed July 29, 1996

End