



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

Saturday, October 14, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Complex nationality and immigration issues discussed	1
Increased police presence to combat crime	2
Fire fighting and rescue services improvements sought	4
Measures to enhance human rights protection	6
Drawing competition on historical monuments	11
HK's police force, one of the finest in Asia: CS	12
The weather of September	13
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	17

Sunday, October 15, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
West Kowloon Expressway reaches another milestone	18
Safety in renovation works must be ensured	19
Airport staff honoured for dedicated service	20
Drama Festival to be launched	21
Sale of substandard plugs and adaptors warned	22
Drug Wise Training Camp for Wan Chai students	22

Complex nationality and immigration issues discussed

* * * * *

The Government is working very hard to resolve the complex series of nationality and immigration issues with the Chinese before 1997 so that Hong Kong residents can be certain about their residence rights, their travel documents and visa-free access to foreign countries, the Secretary for Security, Mr Peter Lai, said today (Saturday).

Mr Lai was briefing Legislative Council members on the 1995 Policy Address.

He said discussions with the Chinese side were focused on three areas: the precise arrangements for non-Chinese nationals regarding the question of their right of abode; the technical arrangements for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passport; and how best to co-operate to secure the maximum degree of travel convenience for Hong Kong residents post 1997.

Turning to immigration control matters, Mr Lai said one priority area was the strengthening of enforcement actions against illegal employment, targeting both at employers and illegal workers.

He pointed out that the Immigration Task Force, which was established last year with 46 officers, had carried out 1,518 raids against illegal employees and their employers in the first nine months of this year, 86 per cent more than the same period last year.

"As a result, 3,363 illegal workers and 731 employers were prosecuted.

"These figures were 50 per cent and six per cent over comparable figures for last year," said Mr Lai.

"The Force has now doubled in strength to 92 officers and we will be able to launch more operations to target illegal workers as well as their employers," he added. Mr Lai said new measures would be introduced in the coming weeks to enable the authorities to deal with the problem of illegal employment more effectively.

These measures include introducing "W" prefix to identity cards to be issued to newly arrived foreign domestic helpers; legislative changes to require employers to inspect contract workers' travel documents to make sure that they may be legally employed before offering employment; and proposals to raise the level of fines for employers employing illegal workers.

On efforts that have been made to facilitate travel in and out of the territory, Mr Lai said new computer systems installed at the control points would reduce processing time for machine-readable passports by 20 seconds per transaction.

"Customers of the various services such as identity card, registration of births, deaths and marriage, passports issue will also benefit from the improved computer system," he said.

End/Saturday, October 14, 1995

Increased police presence to combat crime
* * * * *

Increased Police presence on Hong Kong's streets has yielded encouraging results in lowering the rate of violent crimes, the Secretary for Security, Mr Peter Lai, said today (Saturday).

Speaking at a briefing session for Legislative Councillors on the 1995 Policy Address, Mr Lai said compared to the same period three years ago, the first eight months of this year had seen a significant 61 per cent fall in armed robberies.

"There was also a decrease by 18 per cent in the number of bank robberies, a remarkable 83 per cent decrease in the number of luxury car reported missing, and a drop of six per cent in the number of triad related crimes," he said.

Although the overall crime rate in the past three years had gone up by about six per cent, the recent increase was mainly due to a rise in petty crimes such as shopthefts, minor thefts and narcotics offences, he said.

"However, during the same period, the violent crime rate, unlike that in other metropolitan cities, has actually fallen by some 11 per cent and the number of armed robberies has dropped by a remarkable 61 per cent," said Mr Lai.

He said compared with 1992, there was now an extra 800 police officers patrolling the streets and the Government was on course to meet the current year's commitment to deploy a further 400 policemen on the streets.

He said forty-five additional police posts had just been created in the Organised Crime and Triad Bureau and the Crime Intelligence Bureau, and 38 in the Narcotics Bureau. In the coming year, at least 200 more police officers would join front-line patrol duties.

"This will enhance the Police capability in the fight against crime, particularly in dealing with the triads and the drug problem at the division, district and regional levels," he said.

On the anti-drug front, Mr Lai said to add impetus to the current programmes, the Government aimed to establish a \$350 million Beat Drugs Fund as a major new initiative to finance projects relating to drug abuse, preventive education, publicity, research, training, law enforcement, and treatment and rehabilitation.

"The Fund will provide substantial new resources to advance the aims of our 'Beat Drugs' campaign, and will enable many worthwhile projects to go ahead earlier without queuing up for funding in the normal annual resource allocation exercise," he said.

"We will in addition increase the subventions to non-government organisations to help them meet the growing demand for their counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services.

"Funds will also be made available to establish two new residential treatment centres for young opiate abusers, and a new counselling centre in the New Territories for young psychotropic substance abusers."

To meet the educational needs of young drug abusers while undergoing treatment and rehabilitation, Mr Lai said the Government was providing to each residential drug treatment and rehabilitation agency a new package of assistance, including a monthly grant to help them provide education for their young clients.

"We will also make it easier for those who leave a residential treatment programme to re-enter the school system," he said.

In response to the increase of female drug abusers, Mr Lai said the Government planned to carry out a research into the unique characteristics of female abusers, and the factors leading to their drug abuse, so as to help it to better focus its drug preventive and treatment programmes.

To tackle the problem of prison over-crowding, Mr Lai said the Government had been working to increase the supply of penal places through redevelopment of existing penal institutions and converting vacated Vietnamese migrants (VM) detention centres into penal institutions.

"Improvement works have been carried out in existing penal institutions. We will be redeveloping the Stanley Prison area to provide an additional 700 prison places by 1998.

"Last year, we converted two vacated VM centres at Hei Ling Chau and Nei Kwu Chau into penal institutions, adding over 700 places to our penal accommodation.

"We are actively pursuing the conversion of the Chi Ma Wan (Lower) Detention Centre into a female drug detention treatment centre to provide an extra 250 places next year to relieve the particularly over-crowded female institutions," he said.

Mr Lai said the Government was also examining the feasibility of converting the ex-military camp at Lo Wu into a penal institution, which could provide up to 300 places.

"All these measures should provide an additional 1,250 places over the next three years," he said, adding that the Government was also actively looking for new sites to construct penal institutions elsewhere in the territory.

End/Saturday, October 14, 1995

Fire fighting and rescue services improvements sought

* * * * *

The Fire Services Department will secure improvements in the standard of services in the coming year through new resources and redeployment of existing resources within the department, the Secretary for Security, Mr Peter Lai, said today (Saturday).

Speaking at a briefing session for Legislative Councillors on the Policy Commitments, Mr Lai said in the coming year, the department would focus on strengthening its fire fighting capability, especially in the New Territories, with an additional 66 posts to reinforce the staff at existing status and the additional of two new fire stations and 161 posts in 1996-97.

He pointed out that in the first half of 1995, the department had been able to respond to 90 per cent of all fire calls in buildings within the graded response time of six minutes in built-up areas.

"During the same period, our emergency ambulance services has been able to respond to 90 per cent of all emergency calls within a travel time of 10 minutes or less," Mr Lai said.

He noted that there had been an 8.6 per cent increase in the total number of emergency ambulance calls in the first nine months of 1995 as compared with the same period last year.

He explained that there were a number of factors which constrained the performance of emergency ambulance services.

"There has been a gradual increase in workload as the total number of emergency ambulance calls continue to rise, especially in the New Territories.

"The increasing geographical spread of population in the New Territories has made it difficult for the existing ambulance depots to provide full geographical coverage to all demands for emergency ambulance services in the New Territories.

"Moreover, traffic congestion and inclement weather often affect our performance significantly," he said.

To improve the performance of ambulance services, Mr Lai said, the Government was now studying the recommendations by the consultant commissioned by the department to study the provision of ambulance services.

"In the short term, we will be looking at possible means to redeploy our existing resources to strengthen areas where coverage is inadequate.

"We will also be reviewing the operational procedures on ambulance deployment to achieve a more effective mobilisation," he said.

Mr Lai said he believed that with the implementation of the short-term measures, the performance of ambulance services will be improved by two per cent.

"As for the longer term, we will need to look for additional resources to provide for more ambulances and crew, as well as to construct more depots to extend the emergency ambulance coverage," he added.

End/Saturday, October 14, 1995

Measures to enhance human rights protection

* * * * *

In keeping with the Government's firm commitment to promote equal opportunities for all, the Home Affairs Branch has embarked on extensive studies in discrimination on the grounds of family status and sexuality.

The studies included an assessment of the problems and a thorough public consultation on the measures to tackle the problems identified, the Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Michael Suen, said at briefing sessions for the Legislative Council and the media today (Saturday) on the Home Affairs Branch's policy commitments.

"Research encompasses examination of experience overseas and discussions with various organisations and groups in the community including homosexual/bisexual groups, employers associations, labour unions, social service groups and academics.

"This will provide information for the preparation of the consultation documents to be published before the end of this year," Mr Suen said.

He said the public consultation would be for a period of two months and the need for legislation would feature among the options to address the problems identified.

On the legislative option to be set out in the consultation documents, Mr Suen said it would be modelled closely on work that had already been done and the Legislative Council would be kept informed of the findings of the studies.

"If the studies conclude that legislation is the best approach, we will try our very best to have the relevant bills tabled within the 1995-96 legislative session," he added.

He said in respect of the study on sexuality, an opinion survey had also been commissioned to gauge public attitude on the subject and the issues which might arise from measures proposed to tackle the problem.

"We will continue to promote equality and the rights of the individual, both through encouraging changes in public attitude and through legislation when this is necessary," he said.

Meanwhile, the Government is pressing ahead with the setting up of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) to oversee the implementation of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance and Disability Discrimination Ordinance and to mediate in disputes involving discrimination.

A preparatory team was in place to expedite the necessary arrangements to establish the EOC, he said.

"It is our intention that the Commission should start operation in early 1996. We will seek funding from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in late November or early December. "The annual recurrent budget of the EOC is estimated to be \$65 million at 1995-96 prices and the Commission is expected to have more than 60 staff," he said.

One of the tasks for the EOC will be the preparation of a code of practice on employment matters which will provide practical guidance to employers and employees to comply with the law.

"This code will be prepared in consultation with the relevant associations and concerned groups. The Commission will try its best to have the code ready as soon as possible after its establishment," Mr Suen added.

These two pieces of legislation prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sex, marital status, pregnancy and disability. Sexual harassment has also been outlawed.

Turning to another important measure aimed at enhancing protection for the rights of the individual, Mr Suen said work was in hand to establish the Privacy Commissioner's Office which would have an initial staff of around 30 at an annual recurrent cost of \$28 million.

"This will also require approval by the Finance Committee which we plan to seek in late November or early December. We hope to complete the establishment of the office in early 1996, and bring the legislation into force," he said.

The Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, enacted in August this year, provides for comprehensive protection of the individual's privacy with respect to personal data. It also safeguards the free-flow of personal data to Hong Kong from interference by countries which already have data protection laws.

The ordinance establishes an independent regulatory authority, the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data to enforce and promote compliance with its provisions.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to press freedom which was vital to a free society, Mr Suen said the commitment was backed up by a solid programme of legislative reform to ensure that existing laws met the requirements for protecting freedom of expression laid down in the Bill of Rights (BOR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as applied to Hong Kong.

"Substantial progress has been made on our reform programme. Since 1992, the Government has examined 53 separate provisions in 27 ordinances.

"Of these, 31 provisions have been amended or repealed, and 12 have been left unaltered as they are compatible with the BOR and serve to protect individuals' right to privacy, the public interest or the right to a fair trial.

"Altogether we have dealt with 43 provisions, representing more than 80 per cent of the laws.

"In addition, we have recently put proposals to the Chinese side of the Joint Liaison Group on the remaining security-related laws covered by our review, including the Official Secrets Act as well as provisions on sedition and treason in the Crimes and Post Office Ordinances," said Mr Suen.

On the commitment to the principle of an open and accountable Government, Mr Suen said a Code on Access to Information to enhance the Government's transparency had been tested and its effectiveness demonstrated by a six-month pilot scheme from March to August this year.

"Up to the end of September, a total of 285 requests for information had been received. Only eight of these were refused. Most of the requests were dealt with in less than 21 days.

"A total of 36 departments and branches are now subject to the Code. By the end of 1995, the Code will be applied to about 55 departments and branches. We are well within our target of extending the Code to the entire Administration by the end of 1996," he said.

Dwelling on other human rights guarantees, Mr Suen said Hong Kong placed great importance on the implementation of international conventions.

Hong Kong abides by a number of international conventions including the International Covenant for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The Bill of Rights Ordinance gives effect in local law to the relevant provisions of the ICCPR, as applied to Hong Kong.

"The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child has been extended to Hong Kong, and we are seeking the extension of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to Hong Kong.

"The fourth report under the ICCPR has been submitted. The United Nations Human Rights Committee will examine the report on October 19 and 20. Representatives from the Hong Kong Government will be part of the United Kingdom delegation attending the hearing," he added.

He also mentioned the initial report under the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment has been submitted.

"We will attend before the Committee Against Torture in November 1995," said Mr Suen.

The third report on ICESCR will be submitted later this year and Hong Kong representatives expect to attend before the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1996.

Turning to efforts to foster a sense of community responsibility at the local level, Mr Suen highlighted the provision of \$100 million in 1995-96 to fund District Board activities and the introduction of an accountable office rental allowance of \$4,500, on top of the existing monthly honorarium, to assist members to set up ward offices in their constituencies.

Another new initiative undertaken by the Home Affairs Department is the employment of private contractors to design and construct minor works under the Rural Planning and Improvement Strategy (RPIS) to ensure that projects are completed on time.

Since taking over the responsibility for RPIS Minor Works from the Territory Development Department in November last year, the Home Affairs Department has drawn up a targeted expenditure programme to ensure the original programme time frame is adhered to.

The department has closely involved the rural community in the RPIS Minor Works Programme through a central steering committee and district working groups in each New Territories district as well as liaising with local residents on all aspects of projects and encouraging them to propose new schemes for inclusion in the programme.

"In 1995-96, we will spend \$150 million on improvement works to alleviate problems of flooding, pollution and unplanned development in rural areas under RPIS," said Mr Suen.

On the new task of the Home Affairs Department to assess the provision of services for the new arrivals from China, Mr Suen said it was important that these new immigrants be given help to integrate with the community and overcome any problems.

"The Department will, through its district liaison network, assess and monitor the services which are available to, and needed by, recent immigrants."

Regarding the commitment to improve the safety of bedspace apartment lodgers, Mr Suen said all bedspace apartments will be required to comply with the new safety standards spelt out in the licensing scheme under the Bedspace Apartments Ordinance in 1997.

"To enable us to provide for any lodgers whose bedspace apartments close down or reduce in capacity, we plan to construct a multi-storey hostel in Sham Shui Po with Land Development Corporation funds.

"This hostel will accommodate around 600 persons and will be in addition to the some 300 places we have in other smaller scale hostels.

"We will ensure that no lodger is made homeless as a result of operators' compliance with the new safety standards and will provide assistance in finding alternative accommodation for all those who are displaced," Mr Suen said.

End/Saturday, October 14, 1995

Drawing competition on historical monuments

* * * * *

The Antiquities and Monuments Office of the Recreation and Culture Branch and the Education Department are jointly organising a drawing competition for primary and secondary school students on Hong Kong's historical monuments.

The event forms part of the School Heritage Festival programmes to be held in March next year.

The competition is divided into three groups: primary students (P1 - P6), junior secondary students (S1 - S3) and senior secondary students (S4 - S7).

Each entrant should submit only one entry, which must be his or her original work. Entries can be produced in any medium, with no restrictions on the techniques and styles employed.

The size of each entry should be A3 for the primary school group and A2 for the secondary school groups.

All entries must be accompanied by entry forms which are available at the Antiquities and Monuments Office, 136 Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon. They should be submitted to the Office on or before November 16.

A panel of judges comprising four renowned artists and a representative of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust will be formed to select the winning entries. The results will be announced in January next year.

The winner, first runner-up and second runner-up in each group will receive \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively. There will also be 10 merit prizes of \$300 each in each group.

Enquiries can be made at the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 2721 2326.

End/Saturday, October 14, 1995

HK's police force, one of the finest in Asia: CS

Hong Kong has one of Asia's finest police forces which maintains Hong Kong's prosperity and stability, the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, said.

Officiating at the passing-out parade at the Police Training School today (Saturday), Mrs Chan said Hong Kong had a much lower crime rate than other major cities like Tokyo, London, Toronto or San Francisco.

"The Royal Hong Kong Police Force was the first disciplined service established in the territory and has a long and proud tradition of distinguished service," she said.

The Chief Secretary said she was always impressed by the professionalism, commitment and high standards of the police force during her visits to different police formations.

"The community owes the Police Force a great debt of gratitude," she added.

Accompanied by the acting Commissioner of Police, Mr Wong Tsan-kwong, and the Commandant of the Police Training School, Mr Foo Tsun-kong, Mrs Chan inspected seven male inspectors, three female inspectors and 118 police constables.

At present, all police inspectors have to undergo a 36-week course which covers both academic and practical subjects and focuses on the development of leadership skills.

Police constables are required to undergo a 27-week training which includes a wide range of topics in law and order.

End/Saturday, October 14, 1995

The weather of September

* * * * *

September 1995 was the tenth driest September since records began in 1884. The total monthly rainfall of 81.4 millimetres was 73 per cent below the normal value.

However, the previous August was extremely wet and the total rainfall for the first nine months this year accumulated to 2,267.8 millimetres, 13 per cent above an average of 2,007.1 millimetres for the same period.

With generally fine weather prevailing on most days, the mean monthly pressure of 1,010.4 hectopascal in September was the seventh highest on record.

Typhoon Kent, which affected Hong Kong on the last days of August, weakened rapidly into an area of low pressure over Guangxi on September 1.

The outer rainbands of Kent brought scattered showers to the territory on September 1. But showers became less frequent the next day and there were sunny periods as a ridge of high pressure established along the coast of southeast China.

The ridge persisted and maintained fine and hot weather for the next couple of days. The month's highest temperature of 33.4 degrees was attained on the afternoon of September 5. Five police constables were overcome by the very hot weather during training near Lok Ma Chau.

On the same day, Tropical Storm Nina over the South China Sea moved northwestwards steadily towards Leizhou Peninsula. There was abundant sunshine on September 6 but squally showers associated with Nina also affected the territory.

Isolated heavy showers occurred the next day and over 30 millimetres of rainfall were recorded on Lantau Island. It became fine and hot again from September 8 to 11.

A strong easterly airstream reached the south China coast on September 12 bringing cloudy weather to Hong Kong overnight. However, winds subsided rapidly soon after daybreak and there were sunny periods.

It remained fine apart from a few brief but heavy showers in the next four days with isolated thunderstorms on the morning of September 16.

A surge of the northeast monsoon brought cloudy weather to the territory and temperatures were generally on the fall from September 17 to 20.

As Typhoon Ryan developed over the South China Sea on September 20, local winds became generally fresh and gusty. Temperatures decreased to the month's minimum of 22.8 degrees on the early morning of the following day.

The weather turned fine on September 22 as Ryan moved away from Hong Kong. A sunny spell with no measurable rain lasted until September 27.

With the arrival of a fresh easterly airstream, rain patches developed over the territory on the morning of September 28.

For the last two days of the month, the weather was mainly cloudy with occasional light rain in the early morning.

There were eight tropical cyclones over the western North Pacific and the South China Sea in the month of September.

Details of the issuance/hoisting and cancellation/lowering of various warnings/signals in the month are summarised in Table 1.1.

Monthly meteorological figures and departures from normal of September are tabulated in Table 1.2.

Table 1.1 Warnings and signals in September 1995

Warnings / Signals		Effective date and time
Tropical Cyclone Warning Signals		
Name of T C	Signal No	
KENT	1	30 Aug 1200 - 31 Aug 0400
	3	31 Aug 0400 - 31 Aug 1300
	8 NW	31 Aug 1300 - 31 Aug 1645
	8 SW	31 Aug 1645 - 31 Aug 2100
	3	31 Aug 2100 - 1 Sep 0015
NINA	1	6 Sep 0945 - 7 Sep 1015
RYAN	1	19 Sep 2215 - 21 Sep 1130
<hr/>		
Strong Monsoon Signal		12 Sep 0515 - 12 Sep 1045
<hr/>		
Landslip Warning		31 Aug 1800 - 1 Sep 1630
<hr/>		
Flood Warning		31 Aug 1630 - 1 Sep 0200
<hr/>		
Thunderstorm Warnings		31 Aug 2200 - 1 Sep 0800 14 Sep 1755 - 14 Sep 2055 16 Sep 0600 - 16 Sep 0800

Table 1.2 Figures and Departures from Normal:September 1995

Total Bright Sunshine	198.6 hours ; 16.9 hours above normal
Mean Daily Global Solar	15.52 MJ/SQM ; 0.97 MJ/SQM below normal
Radiation Total Rainfall	81.4 mm ; 218.3 mm below normal
Mean Cloud Amount	61 % ; 2 % below normal
Mean Relative Humidity	77 % ; 1 % below normal
Mean Daily Maximum Temperature	30.1 Degree Celsius; 0.2 Degree Celsius below normal
Mean Air Temperature	27.6 Degree Celsius;normal
Mean Daily Temperature	25.7 Degree Celsius; 0.2 Degree Celsius above normal
Mean Dew Point	23.2 Degree Celsius; 0.1 Degree Celsius below normal
Total Evaporation	118.9 mm ; 31.4 mm below normal

Remarks: All measurements were made at the Royal Observatory except sunshine, solar radiation and evaporation which were recorded at King's Park.

End/Saturday, October 14, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$ million)
	-----	-----	-----
Opening balance in the account	3,466	09:30	-300
Closing balance in the account	1,641	10:00	-300
Change attributable to:		11:00	-300
Money market activity	-300	11:30	-300
LAF today	-1,525	15:00	

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.1 *+0.2* 14.10.95

End/Saturday, October 14, 1995

West Kowloon Expressway reaches another milestone

* * * * *

Construction of the West Kowloon Expressway, an Airport Core Programme (ACP) project, has reached another important stage when the last of the 2,258 precast segments for the highway's elevated northern section was put in place.

The final section has been erected in Tai Kok Tsui, marking completion of placement of all the precast segments in 15 months, four weeks ahead of schedule.

The Project Manager/Airport and Port Access of the Highways Department, Mr Bob Lloyd, said the completion of the viaduct segments was the culmination of a considerable amount of expertise, energy and commitment by the contractor and the department's project team.

He is now looking forward to completion of the rest of the works by the end of 1996.

With the last segment in place, the expressway's 2.7-kilometre elevated northern section has taken shape. This section of the expressway is elevated so that the Airport Railway can run underneath it.

Meanwhile, other works on the 4-kilometre dual three-lane highway are proceeding well. These include construction of the expressway's ground-level southern section, distributor road bridges, footbridges and retaining walls.

The expressway will run from the Western Harbour Crossing Toll Plaza to the south of Mei Foo Sun Chuen. It is being built on the West Kowloon Reclamation as part of the road network which will connect the new airport at Chek Lap Kok and Tung Chung new town to the urban areas.

The expressway is scheduled for completion at the end of 1996. When opened, it will give much needed relief to traffic congestion in West Kowloon. Note to Editors:

Copies of a photograph of the last precast segment are now available for collection at GIS News Room.

End/Sunday, October 15, 1995

Safety in renovation works must be ensured

* * * * *

Contractors of renovation works, like other building contractors, are required by law to adopt a safe system of work.

The Chief Factory Inspector of the Labour Department, Mr Chan Tat-king, said today (Sunday) that all necessary safety precautions had to be taken when workers were engaged in internal alteration or repair works.

Such precautions include supervision of the safe work methods and the use of proper tools and personal protective equipment.

"Containers of dangerous substances should be properly labelled. Moreover, contractors should provide information and training for the workers on the handling of dangerous substances," he said.

With the advent of the dry season, Mr Chan also urged contractors to reduce the use of flammable substances to the minimum and handle them with care.

"Unwanted residual flammable solvents should never be poured into the water closet as this could create a fire hazard on the spot or even to the rest of the building," he added.

Contractors should train workers how to use portable fire-fighting appliances and any standard fire service installations in the building.

Failure to take necessary precautions to protect the safety of workers is an offence under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Dangerous Substances) Regulations, Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations and the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance.

The offender is liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and 12 months' imprisonment.

End/Sunday, October 15, 1995

Airport staff honoured for dedicated service

* * * * *

A recently retired staff member of the Civil Aviation Department was awarded the Imperial Service Medal for his 38 years of dedicated and diligent service at the Kai Tak Airport.

Mr Fu Sang, who retired from the post of a senior foreman in September at the age of 59, was one of the award recipients named in the Queen's Birthday Honour list published in the Government Gazette on Friday (October 13).

He joined the department in 1957 and through the years worked his way up to senior foreman in 1977. On several occasions, he had acted as assistant airport manager.

Recommending him for the award, the Director of Civil Aviation, Mr Peter Lok, said Mr Fu always performed his duties exceptionally well, and was a role model for his peers and juniors.

"The success of Kai Tak is due, in no small measure, to the diligent, dedication and resourcefulness of numerous junior staff exemplified by him.

"His conduct has, over the last 38 years, been exemplary and he is well respected by his colleagues.

"He is very positive in his approach towards work and has contributed much towards the efficiency of the operation of the passenger terminal at Kai Tak," said Mr Lok.

During the past few decades, Mr Fu said, he has witnessed many changes at the airport which was now the fourth busiest in the world in terms of international passengers, and second in terms of air cargo.

"When I joined the department, the annual passenger throughput was only 0.24 million. Today, the figure is well over 24 million," Mr Fu said.

End/Sunday, October 15, 1995

Drama Festival to be launched

The Hong Kong School Drama Festival 1995-96 Launching Ceremony will be held at the Theatre, Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre, on Wednesday (October 18).

The Director of Education, Mr W K Lam, and the Chairman of Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon, Dr Leung Wing-chiu, will officiate at the launching ceremony.

This annual event is organised by the Education Department and presented by the Hong Kong School Drama Council, Urban Council and Regional Council and sponsored by the Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon.

A total of 181 primary and secondary schools will participate in the festival.

A spokesman for the Education Department said: "The Festival aims at inculcating in students interests in drama activities and the associated knowledge and techniques.

"It also aims at broadening students' scope and exposure as part of their development in the informal curriculum.

"In order to provide the participating students and teachers with updated knowledge and techniques on drama activities, the Education Department has organised training sessions on different aspects of drama and rendered on site advice in producing the play for the participating schools."

In addition to this support, all participating secondary schools are given a cash grant of \$1,300 each and primary schools \$1,000 each in the School Performance Phase, where \$1,900 is given to schools in the Public Performance Phase and the Gala Evenings.

The Drama Festival will be conducted in four phases. The School Performance Phase will be held between January and February next year, Public Performance Phase and Prize Presentation Ceremony in April and Gala Evenings in May.

End/Sunday, October 15, 1995

Sale of substandard plugs and adaptors warned

* * * * *

A spokesman for the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) today (Sunday) reminded shop owners not to sell substandard electrical plugs, adaptors and electrical products.

The reminder follows 10 successful prosecutions last month and so far this month for violation of the Plugs and Adaptors (Safety) Regulations (PASR).

"All the defendants pleaded guilty and the fines imposed on them by the courts ranged from \$1,200 to \$5,000," the spokesman said.

PASR which came into effect on March 23, ban the sale of plugs, adaptors and electrical products not meeting the safety standards prescribed in the regulations.

Any person who contravenes PASR is liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and six months imprisonment on first conviction and a maximum fine of \$100,000 and six months imprisonment on the second and subsequent conviction.

Meanwhile, the spokesman noted that since the implementation of PASR, EMSD had carried out 1,077 inspections to various locations throughout the territory.

"There are 15 prosecutions currently in hand, while 13 violation cases are under investigations.

"Inspections and prosecutions will continue," he stressed.

End/Sunday, October 15, 1995

Drug Wise Training Camp for Wan Chai students

* * * * *

About 120 teenagers attended a two-day "Drug Wise Training Camp" at the Po Leung Kuk Pak Tam Chung Holiday Camp in Sai Kung starting yesterday (Saturday).

Adopting the theme of "Together We Can Beat Drugs", camp was organised by the Wan Chai District Fight Crime Committee and the Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (SARDA) with sponsorship from the Wan Chai District Board.

The event was co-organised by the Wan Chai District Office and the Wan Chai District Youth Office of the Social Welfare Department.

Educational programmes including seminars, lectures, card games, role-playing and video shows have been held to bring home the messages of the dangers of drugs and the dreadful consequences of drug addiction.

The participating students, aged from 14 to 16, and the volunteers in the camp, aged from 18 to 20, all came from Wan Chai District.

End/Sunday, October 15, 1995