



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CS has full confidence in HK in the run-up to 1997

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The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, said tonight (Friday) that the people of Hong Kong must have confidence in themselves in the run-up to 1997 and take the fullest advantage of the opportunity to shape their own destiny.

Speaking at the Hong Kong Standard "Leader of the Year" Award Dinner, Mrs Chan said during the course of transition to 1997, much has been done to turn the concept of "one country two systems" into an operational reality.

"I think it has become increasingly clear that "one country two systems" can work and that it will work if we, as a community, have the will to make it work.

"And I know that at every level of our community, there is such a will to make it work," Mrs Chan said.

But she also recognised that the concept must be accepted in its entirety.

"We cannot cherry pick with the constitutional bedrock of our way of life after 1 July 1997. We cannot select the parts of the "one country two systems" concept we like best and ignore the rest.

"In acknowledging this, I do not for a minute suggest that we should bow our heads or abandon our principles. It is simply a matter of keeping our side of a constitutional bargain," she said.

She said she was confident that China would respect the terms of the Joint Declaration.

"Of course we must defend our way of life, but we must also respect the terms of the Joint Declaration. Both sides must keep to their side of bargain," she said.

Mrs Chan said the British Foreign Secretary's visit to Beijing earlier this month has increased the momentum of co-operation between Britain and China.

"I hope we can build on the Chinese Foreign Minister's encouraging remarks on the complex but crucial question of Hong Kong people who now have permanent residence retaining that status after 1997.

"The success of Mr Rifkind's visit is a clear indication that Britain and China can work together to complete their agenda of work before 1 July 1997.

"This new momentum in implementing the Joint Declaration is one of the reasons for my growing confidence about the future," she said.

Mrs Chan said another reason for her confidence in Hong Kong is the civil service which commands the respect and support of the community.

"We now have a senior civil service team in place which is qualified to lead Hong Kong successfully through the transition. A team which has the support of their colleagues, the support of the community and which merits and, I am pleased to say, is receiving China's support.

"China, I believe, recognises the value of a highly competent, corruption-free civil service which is able to make decisions free from political or commercial interference in the best interests of the people of Hong Kong," she said.

Mrs Chan said the other fundamental component of Hong Kong's success is our economy.

"We have every reason to be confident about the economy, and every reason to be confident about our ability to manage our public finances in a way which facilitates, rather than impedes, economic growth."

Mrs Chan said the priorities of the Government in the next 17 months would be to find a way of working in co-operation with the Preparatory Committee, to reassure those who have doubts about the future and to go on governing and making decisions to keep Hong Kong's economy competitive and public services efficient.

"The Liaison Office has been established and the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs and his staff, who will be running the office, stand ready to offer timely and effective assistance to the Preparatory Committee," she said.

Mrs Chan said she has no doubt that the people of Hong Kong and their Government are capable of meeting these challenges successfully.

"No doubt that we have the resilience, the skills and, above all, the commitment to make a success of our future," she said.

Mrs Chan, elected as the 1995 Hong Kong Standard "Leader of the Year", confirmed that she, as head of the civil service, would continue to stand for "honest and principled government".

End

S for W asks for investigation into footbridge collapse incident

\* \* \* \* \*

The Secretary for Works, Mr HS Kwong, this evening (Friday) visited the site of a footbridge which collapsed during the final stage of construction at Po Ning Road, Tseung Kwan O.

Mr Kwong was briefed on site by staff of the Territory Development Department (TDD) and the consulting engineers supervising the rescue and clearance work.

Mr Kwong said: "I have asked for a full investigation into the accident and I am expecting a report from TDD and the consulting engineers upon completion of their investigation."

The accident occurred at about 4.15 pm today when a number of workmen were making preparations for the lowering of two parallel beams onto their final position at a later day.

Mr Kwong said: "My understanding is that the contractor has been following the safety procedure thoroughly. The method of construction is checked regularly by the consulting engineers and independent inspectors.

"I have also asked for the removal of the collapsed structure in order to re-open the road as soon as possible."

Mr Kwong also visited the injured workers at United Christian Hospital.

End

STI to visit Brussels

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The Secretary for Trade and Industry, Miss Denise Yue, will visit Brussels from January 29 to 30.

She will be meeting with senior officials of the European Commission in Brussels, including the two vice-presidents, Sir Leon Brittan and Mr Manuel Marin, and the EU Commissioner on Competition, Mr Karel Van Miert.

She will also call on the President of the External Relations Committee of the European Parliament, Mr William de Clerq.

Miss Yue will exchange views with EU officials on issues of mutual interest in the economic and trade field, including Hong Kong's bilateral relationship with the EU and the multilateral trading system.

She will travel to Bonn on January 31 for the signing of the Hong Kong/Germany Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement. She will then join the Hong Kong delegation to the World Economic Forum Conference in Davos, Switzerland.

End

Working group accepts Vitasoy reports

\* \* \* \* \*

An Ad Hoc Working Group of the Hygiene Services Committee considered the findings of the two investigation reports submitted by the Vitasoy International Holdings Limited in connection with the incidents of "sour-taste" Vitasoy products acceptable.

The working group, which comprises Urban and Regional Councillors, representatives of the Department of Health and the two municipal services departments, independent experts from the Hong Kong University and the Polytechnic University and representative of the Consumer Council, met today (Friday) to consider the investigation reports.

The working group noted that only some 203 packs of Vitasoy Malt Soya milk produced in Shenzhen and a very tiny number of Soya and Malt Soya milk products produced in Tuen Mun were affected, while the company's range of VITA teas and juices were proved to be unaffected in the incidents.

The results of laboratory tests conducted by both the company and the Department of Health indicated that the bacteria found in the "sour-taste" products are non-pathogenic.

An independent investigation commissioned by the company revealed that equipment wear and tear and the possibility of human error may have been the likely causes of contamination of some products produced in Shenzhen plant. In the case of the Tuen Mun plant, variations in machine performance and incomplete sterilisation led to contamination of products.

"After detailed discussions, members are convinced that the investigations conducted by the Swedish experts were thorough and comprehensive," a spokesman for the working group said.

Members found the attributed causes to the problems in the Tuen Mun plant and the Shenzhen plant supported with valid scientific and statistical evidence.

The working group noted and supported the remedial and preventive measures recommended by the Swedish experts and adopted by the company.

These include increased quality assurance with random sampling for quality control, "aimed sampling" - the testing of products during specific phases of the production operation, incubating the samples at elevated temperature and more intensive cleaning and sterilisation.

"The working group agrees that sound quality control and quality assurance programme covering the entire food production process is more important and effective than end-product sampling," the spokesman said.

It recommended additional measures be introduced by the company including improvements to the maintenance of machines, staff training, controls to ensure strict adherence to the working procedures, independent outside laboratory support and annual audit of quality control and quality assurance.

On the monitoring of the re-launched products in local market, the spokesman said: "While supporting the returning to normal production of the company's Tuen Mun plant, stringent measures will be taken by the authorities to monitor paper-packed Vitasoy Soya and Malt Soya milk re-introduced into the market."

"For Vitasoy Soya and Malt Soya milk products produced and imported from Shenzhen, the Department of Health has been informed by the Shenzhen Authority that inspections of the Shenzhen plant will be stepped up when it resumes production," he said.

As regards the operation of the company's Tuen Mun plant, the Regional Services Department will step up inspections to two times per week to see that the quality control plans are strictly adhered to.

All these will be supplemented by continued intensified sampling of the products from the market - including those imported from Shenzhen - under the normal Government food surveillance programme.

"Such measures will not be applied to high acidic drinks such as Vita teas and juices since the bacteria found in Vitasoy Soya and Malt Soya milk products are unable to grow in high acidic environment, and the extensive investigations involving massive sampling confirmed that these drinks have not been affected," the spokesman added.

The spokesman pointed out that members of the Working Group considered that appropriate and swift actions to protect public health safety had been taken by the Health Authority, the two municipal councils, various government departments and Vitasoy International Holdings Ltd in the "sour-taste" Vitasoy Soya and Malt Soya milk products incidents.

"Experiences obtained from the incidents could further help strengthen Hong Kong's food monitoring programme and ensure that Hong Kong remains a place of world high standard in food hygiene," he said.

End

Fruit market drivers urged to use parking area for loading

\* \* \* \* \*

Fruit market operators and lorry drivers at the Yau Ma Tei Fruit Market are urged to make better use of the parking area in Shek Lung Street for loading and unloading activities to help minimise environmental nuisances in the area, the Yau Tsim Mong District Officer, Mr Bart Ireland, said today (Friday).

Speaking after an inter-departmental meeting on the traffic arrangement scheme on streets near the fruit market, Mr Ireland said various departments, including the Home Affairs Department, the Transport Department, the Agriculture and Fisheries Department and the Police were maintaining a dialogue with the lorry drivers who went on strike this morning in protest against the new scheme which was scheduled to be implemented on January 30.

The scheme was introduced as one of the mitigation measures to minimise the environmental nuisance and traffic disruption caused by the fruit market following the receipt of numerous complaints from local residents, Mr Ireland said.

Under the scheme, the sections of Public Square Street, Reclamation Street and Shanghai Street near the fruit market are designated as restricted zones from 7 pm to 7 am.

"Fruit market operators and lorry drivers can use the parking area in Shek Lung Street for loading and unloading activities," Mr Ireland noted.

"In view of the concerns raised by the lorry drivers about the new arrangements, the Government will continue to discuss with them the ways to tackle the problem.

"Details of the outcome of today's meeting will be discussed with the drivers next Monday."

Mr Ireland said the traffic arrangement was proposed by the Yau Tsim Mong District Management Committee which comprised representatives from various departments including the Transport Department and the Police, and was endorsed by the Yau Tsim Mong District Board at a meeting early this month.

End

### Regional Seminar on Intellectual Property Rights held in HK

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The Regional Seminar on Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement, held from January 22 to 26 in Hong Kong under the auspices of the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department, the Customs and Tariff Bureau of the Ministry of Finance, Japan and the World Customs Organisation (WCO), was concluded successfully today (Friday).

Participants of the seminar came from 19 WCO member states and territories in the Asia and Pacific region. They proposed to accept the June 1994 WCO Council Recommendation on intellectual property rights (IPR) and to model their own national legislation on the June 1995 WCO Model Legislation for the implementation of the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement concluded in 1994.

Participants also suggested that MOUs should be concluded between regional customs administrations and the private sector and that member administrations should facilitate information exchange by supplying data to the WCO's IPR database for effective and efficient IPR protection enforcement.

They concluded at the seminar that customs administrations of the region should enhance their risk management techniques and effective enforcement by making full use of trade information.

As a closing remark, all participants proposed to convene another regional seminar on IPR enforcement to follow up on the progress by member administrations in their implementation of the recommendations made at this meeting.

End

### HK celebrates International Customs Day

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The Secretary for Trade and Industry, Miss Denise Yue, today (Friday) attended a reception hosted by the Customs and Excise Department to mark the 1996 International Customs Day.

Hong Kong became a full member of the World Customs Organisation in 1987 and this is the ninth year it has celebrated the International Customs Day.

The basic aims of the World Customs Organisation are to harmonise customs systems, to develop and improve customs techniques and legislation and to promote international enforcement co-operation. Hong Kong plays an active part in the work of the organisation's council.

Over 300 guests, comprising members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, senior government Officials, consuls-general and foreign officials and top executives from trade and business organisations, attended today's reception at the Customs and Excise Senior Officers' Mess.

Also at the function, the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Don Watson, presented certificates issued by the World Customs Organisation to five Customs officers and three trade organisations in recognition of their support to the "Year of Traveller 1995" campaign.

End

#### Reproductive technology council established

\* \* \* \* \*

The Government has appointed Mr Denis Chang Khen-lee, QC, and Ms Anna Wu as co-chairpersons of the newly-formed Provisional Council on Reproductive Technology (PCRT).

The 19 non-official members of PCRT include doctors, social workers, lawyers, theologians, a sociologist, a clinical psychologist, a nurse and other community representatives.

A government spokesman said today (Friday) that PCRT was formed to advise on the regulatory framework for reproductive technology and to draw up a code of practice for compliance by licensed reproductive technology institutions.

At its first meeting last Thursday (January 25), members agreed that the mission of PCRT was to take a multi-disciplinary approach in formulating proposals to ensure the safe and informed practice of reproductive technology in a way which respects human life, the role of the family, the rights of service users and the welfare of children born through reproductive technology.

And this should be done with a view to establishing a statutory council, upon enactment of the relevant legislation, to provide a framework of regulatory legislation, code of practice and public education.

Two working groups have been formed under PCRT to scrutinise the draft bill on reproductive technology and to formulate a code of practice respectively.

"It is the intention of the Health and Welfare Branch to introduce the bill to the Legislative Council later this year, taking into account the recommendations to be made by the PCRT," the spokesman said.

The Executive Council endorsed in September 1994 that the Government should adopt a multi-disciplinary approach in reproductive technology, neither promoting nor completely prohibiting it.

This approach is in line with the recommendations made by the Committee on Scientifically Assisted Human Reproduction (SAHR) appointed by the Secretary for Health and Welfare in 1987.

The public was consulted on the recommendations of the Committee on SAHR in 1993. The consultation exercise indicated a general consensus that the Government should regulate reproductive technology procedures through legislation.

The membership list and terms of reference of PCRT are as follows:

Co-chairpersons

Mr Denis CHANG Khen-lee, QC

Ms Anna WU

Non-official members

Mr Colin Chau Yu-nien  
Miss Audrey Eu Yuet-mee, QC  
Mrs Fung Leung Kwai-ping  
Dr Ho Pak-chung  
Dharma Megha (Koh Cheng-hua)  
Mrs Minnie Lai Wei Kit-lin  
Ms Ambar Lam Wai-fong  
Mrs Lau Yu Po-kwan  
Dr Archie Lee Chi-chung  
Professor Rance Lee Pui-leung  
Ms Cathy Lee Wai-yee  
Dr Leong Che-hung  
Dr Athena Liu Nga-chee  
Dr Edward Loong Ping-leung  
Mrs Winnie Poon YAM Wai-chun  
Mrs Katherine Shin Yeung Kwan-man  
Dr William So Wai-ki  
Mr David Wong Wah-shun  
Mr Stephen Yau How-boa

Official members

Representative from the Health and Welfare Branch  
Representative from the Department of Health  
Representative from the Home Affairs Department

Terms of Reference:

- (a) to keep under review local and international developments about, and information on, reproductive technology;
- (b) to advise the Secretary for Health and Welfare on permitted and new reproductive technology procedures and areas of embryo research, having regard to the social, moral, ethical, legal and other implications of reproductive technology and to community views;
- (c) to advise the Secretary for Health and Welfare on the drafting of the Reproductive Technology Bill and Regulation;

(d) to consider the arrangements for inspecting, licensing and monitoring service providers;

(e) to devise a Code of Practice on reproductive technology (including reproductive technology procedures, embryo research and gamete/embryo storage);

(f) to consider and make recommendations on what information service providers should be required to supply and what records the Council should maintain, including:

- (i) a central registry of gamete donors;
- (ii) a register of reproductive technology procedures performed;
- (iii) a record of embryo research conducted; and
- (iv) registers of reproductive technology centres, embryo research centres and storage facilities.

End

#### External trade figures for December

\* \* \* \* \*

Comparing December 1995 with December 1994, both re-exports and imports continued to show significant growth, while domestic exports registered a marginal increase.

These are shown in the external trade figures for December released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

The value of total exports (comprising re-exports and domestic exports) increased by \$13.2 billion or 13% over a year earlier to \$115.3 billion in December 1995.

Within total exports, the value of re-exports, at \$95.2 billion in December this year, was \$13.1 billion or 16% higher. The value of domestic exports, at \$20.2 billion, increased by \$34 million or 0.2%.

Meanwhile, the value of imports increased by \$16.1 billion or 14% to \$127.7 billion.

As the value of total exports in December 1995 was smaller than that of total imports, a visible trade deficit of \$12.4 billion, equivalent to 9.7% of the value of imports, was recorded. This compared with a deficit of \$9.5 billion, equivalent to 8.5% of the value of imports, in December 1994.

For 1995 as a whole, the value of total exports grew by 15% over 1994. Among this, the value of re-exports rose by 17%, while that of domestic exports increased by 4.3%. The value of imports showed an increase of 19%.

For 1995 as a whole, a visible trade deficit of \$147 billion, equivalent to 9.9% of the value of imports, was recorded. This compared with a deficit of \$80.7 billion, equivalent to 6.5% of the value of imports, recorded in 1994.

Commenting on the latest trade figures, a government spokesman said both re-exports and imports maintained double-digit growth in 1995, while domestic exports also showed a small increase after declining for two consecutive years.

Meanwhile, reflecting the sustained strong import requirements for production and investment, there was a marked increase by 22% in retained imports in 1995, resulting in a larger visible trade deficit in the year.

A more detailed analysis of Hong Kong's external trade for December 1995, by commodity and country, will be released in mid-February.

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EXTERNAL TRADE FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1995

MERCHANDISE: Domestic Exports :	\$20,157 million
Re-exports :	\$95,153 million
Total Exports :	\$115,311 million
Imports :	\$127,689 million
Trade balance :	-\$12,378 million

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Latest 3 months	Oct 95 to	Oct 94 to	Change	
	Dec 95 HK\$ Mn.	Dec 94 HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports	59,783	61,918	-2,135	-3.4
(% of Total Exports)	(17.0%)	(19.2%)		
Re-exports	291,093	260,138	+30,955	+11.9
Total Exports	350,876	322,057	+28,820	+8.9
Imports	383,851	344,827	+39,024	+11.3
Trade balance	-32,975	-22,771	-10,204	

  

Same month last year	December	December	Change	
	1995 HK\$ Mn.	1994 HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports	20,157	20,124	+34	+0.2
(% of Total Exports)	(17.5%)	(19.7%)		
Re-exports	95,153	82,030	+13,124	+16.0
Total Exports	115,311	102,153	+13,158	+12.9
Imports	127,689	111,617	+16,072	+14.4
Trade balance	-12,378	-9,463	-2,915	

  

Last month	December	November	Change	
	1995 HK\$ Mn.	1995 HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports	20,157	18,845	+1,313	+7.0
(% of Total Exports)	(17.5%)	(16.7%)		
Re-exports	95,153	93,805	+1,348	+1.4
Total Exports	115,311	112,650	+2,661	+2.4
Imports	127,689	124,950	+2,740	+2.2
Trade balance	-12,378	-12,300	-79	

  

Last 12 months	Jan 95 to	Jan 94 to	Change	
	Dec 95 HK\$ Mn.	Dec 94 HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports	231,657	222,092	+9,565	+4.3
(% of Total Exports)	(17.2%)	(19.0%)		
Re-exports	1,112,470	947,921	+164,549	+17.4
Total Exports	1,344,127	1,170,013	+174,114	+14.9
Imports	1,491,121	1,250,709	+240,412	+19.2
Trade balance	-146,994	-80,695	-66,298	

26 January 1996  
CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

End

Exhibitions to promote working abilities of the disabled

\* \* \* \* \*

The Labour Department's Selective Placement Division (SPD) will put on two exhibitions, one for tomorrow (Saturday) and another on Sunday (January 28), to promote the working abilities of the disabled.

The first exhibition will be part of the "We Care and We Join Hands: the Handicapped and Able-bodied' 96 Carnival" to be held tomorrow from 2 pm to 5 pm at Chater Garden, Central.

It is jointly organised with the Central/Western/ Islands District Rehabilitation and Elderly Office of the Social Welfare Department and Central and Western District Board.

The second show, which is part of the "Rehabilitation Fair' 96" and is jointly organised with the Wan Chai/Hong Kong East District Rehabilitation and Elderly Office of the Social Welfare Department, will be held from 2 pm to 5 pm on Sunday at City Plaza Phase IV, Quarry Bay.

Photographs of disabled people at work and the services of SPD will be on display at both exhibitions. There will also be special counters to answer public enquiries and distribute leaflets.

End

Transfer of VMs from High Island Detention Centre

\* \* \* \* \*

The Government announced that a group of Vietnamese migrants will be transferred from the High Island Detention Centre today (Friday) in preparation for their return under the Orderly Repatriation Programme.

They will be taken to Victoria Prison for pre-flight documentation and medical checks prior to leaving Hong Kong in two groups on two flights in the next two weeks.

The transfer will be observed by independent monitors.

End

VMs to return to Vietnam

\* \* \* \* \*

About 220 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) will shortly be returned to Vietnam under the Orderly Repatriation Programme, a government spokesman said today (Friday).

"The two flights will take place over the next two weeks," he said.

The bulk of those to be repatriated were in the South Section of the High Island Detention Centre.

Yesterday (Thursday) morning, the names of those selected for return were announced in the camp. The VMs concerned were counselled by Correctional Services Department staff to come forward for transfer to Victoria Prison. One hundred and thirty of them chose to do so.

The spokesman said the remaining VMs came out of the camp this morning. A major transfer operation was therefore not necessary.

Commenting on these developments, the Refugee Co-ordinator, Mr Brian Bresnihan, said he was very pleased that a confrontation was avoided.

"We are determined to repatriate the VMs in our camps as soon as possible. In this case, those selected for return have clearly understood our resolve and that nothing would be gained by resistance," he said.

End

Monitors' Report submitted to CS

\* \* \* \* \*

The monitors appointed to observe this (Friday) morning's transfer of Vietnamese migrants (VMs) selected for the Orderly Repatriation Programme from the High Island Detention Centre to Victoria Prison have submitted their report to the Chief Secretary today.

The four monitors comprised two non-official Justices of the Peace, Mr Michael Cheng Tak-kin and Mr David A Gilkes; and representatives from two non-government organisations, Mr Stephen Tsui from Oxfam and Mr Adam Voysey from Christian Action.

End

#### Water supply suspensions advertised every Friday

\* \* \* \* \*

The Water Supplies Department has stepped up its efforts in keeping consumers informed in advance of major planned water supply suspensions by placing advertisements in newspapers.

The advertisements, which appear every Friday in six Chinese-language newspapers and one English-language newspaper, cover major water supply suspensions planned in the following week.

These advertisements would include only those suspensions of which the affected areas were large and distribution of notices to every individual customer was not practicable, a spokesman for the Water Supplies Department said today (Friday).

"This new arrangement is part of our department's continuing efforts to improve our services to the customers. It will supplement the current practice of announcing major planned supply suspensions through radio announcements and press releases.

"At the same time, distribution of individual notices to major housing estates and buildings will also be carried out as far as practicable," he said.

The spokesman said that for planned supply suspensions of a smaller scale, consumers would continue to be informed directly by notices distributed to their premises or buildings or through their management offices.

"Urgent supply suspensions will be announced through the radio as soon as possible," he added.

The advertisements are being placed every Friday in the Hong Kong Economic Times, Ming Pao, the Oriental Daily News, Sing Tao Daily News, Sing Tao Evening News, Ta Kung Pao and the South China Morning Post.

End

"Lai-see" for the elderly

\* \* \* \* \*

Thirty-eight residents from the Sha Tin Housing for the Elderly were each presented a red packet (lai-see) today (Friday) to celebrate the forthcoming Lunar New Year, thanks to the Tang Shiu Kin and Ho Tim Charitable Fund.

The distribution was made by the Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan, Lady Tang and Dr Ho Tim at the Tung Wah Hospital's assembly hall.

The senior citizens were also treated to a lunch and a series of entertaining performances.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr Strachan said the fund committee had, for many years, shown their concern to the elderly and single-parent families receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance by giving lai-see to them during the festive season.

"This is a very good tradition and the Fund Committee members' generosity is deeply appreciated," he said.

About 6,520 single-parent families and 990 other elderly people will also be given lai-see in the next few days. Each single-parent family will receive \$250 and an elderly person, \$100.

More than \$1.73 million from the fund has been earmarked for this purpose this year, an increase of \$400,000 over last year.

The fund, administered by the Social Welfare Department, provides immediate financial assistance to individuals or families to cope with sudden hardship.

It spent a total of \$3.6 million last year to help needy people in more than 1,200 cases including the distribution of lai-see.

Also sharing the festive fun with the elderly people today were fund committee members.

End

#### Fisheries study tour departs for Thailand

\* \* \* \* \*

A 15-member fisheries delegation, comprising local fishermen and fish traders, will depart for Thailand on Sunday (January 28) to study fisheries technology and wholesale marketing facilities there.

To mark the occasion, a banner was presented to the study group leader, Mr Kwok So, today (Friday) by the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, Dr Lawrence Lee.

Speaking before the presentation, Dr Lee said the main objective of organising study tours to overseas countries, which began in 1981, was to promote the development of Hong Kong's fishing industry.

"Through these tours, local fishermen have been able to share experience with their overseas counterparts, and to study their advanced fisheries production and marketing techniques and facilities," he said.

In the past 15 years, a number of fisheries study tours had been organised for local fishermen. Countries visited include Britain, the United States, Australia, China, Japan, Norway and Mexico.

Dr Lee noted that the itinerary of this year's study tour to Thailand included visits to a fisheries exhibition, wholesale fish markets, fish processing factories, shrimp farms and fisheries organisations. The group is expected to return on February 3.

The study visit is organised jointly by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department and the Fish Marketing Organisation.

End

Immigration Service (Amendment) Bill gazetted

\* \* \* \* \*

The Immigration Department is to be given powers to investigate certain offences more effectively and efficiently under a bill gazetted today (Friday).

The Immigration Service (Amendment) Bill 1996 proposes to equip members of the Immigration Service with the necessary powers to investigate offences relating to registration of births, deaths, and marriages, registration of persons and certain forgery offences under the Crimes Ordinance, a government spokesman said.

"These include the powers to arrest and search suspects, to enter premises and search for suspects, and to apply for a warrant to enter, search for and seize things related to the offences or things of value to investigation," the spokesman said.

At present, investigations of these offences are conducted by the Police as members of the Immigration Service do not have clearly defined powers to do so although they have taken over the work of the Registration of Persons Office and the Birth, Death and Marriage Registries in 1977 and 1979 respectively.

"The powers to be conferred on members of the Immigration Service are in line with existing powers of the Police and other enforcement agencies," the spokesman stressed.

He said another proposal was to extend from 12 hours to 48 hours the time limit for delivering a person arrested by members of the Immigration Service to the officer-in-charge of a police station.

"This is also in line with the requirement imposed on other enforcement agencies," the spokesman said.

He said that by passing the responsibility of investigating these matters from the Police to the Immigration Department, police resources tied up in such work could be redeployed and any duplication of work by the two departments could be obviated.

"Also, as members of the Immigration Service are more familiar with their areas of responsibilities, investigation of these offences by them would be conducted more effectively," he added.

The Bill is expected to be introduced into the Legislative Council on February 7.

End

One more nomination received for DB by-election

\* \* \* \* \*

One more nomination was received today (Friday) for the Tuen Mun District Board by-election in respect of Tin King constituency to be held on March 3.

The candidate is Ms Angela Li York-lan, a 41-year-old teacher.

Ms Li can be contacted on 9010 1592.

So far, four nominations were received since the nomination period started on January 19. Nomination will close until February 1.

End

TV show to arouse drug awareness

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A group of popular singers will help promote the message of fighting drugs and preventing juvenile delinquency in the Kowloon City District Drug Awareness Promotion Night to be broadcast live on TVB Jade at 8.30 pm tomorrow (Saturday).

The cast includes Miss Kelly Chen, Miss Amanda Lee, Miss Vivian Lai, Miss Linda Wong, Mr Jeff Cheung, Mr Daniel Chan, and Mr Andy Hui, who is also the Kowloon City District Fight Crime Star '96.

The one-hour show consists of a quiz contest and reconstruction of criminal cases to dramatise the importance of combating crimes and the ill effects of taking drugs.

Footage of an anti-drug parade held in the district last Saturday will also be shown.

The activity is jointly organised by the Kowloon City District Fight Crime Committee (KCDFCC), the Kowloon City District Office, the Kowloon City District Board (KCDB), the Kowloon City Police District, the Action Committee Against Narcotics, TVB and the Lok Sin Tong (Kowloon).

Officiating guests include KCDFCC chairman, Mr Tam Wing-kun; Kowloon City District Officer, Mr William Yap; KCDB chairman, Mr Tang Po-hong; Kowloon City Police District Commander, Mr Lau Wai-ming and Fight Crime Committee member, Mr Edward Pong.

Following the anti-drug parade and TV show, KCDFCC will also organise a district fight crime drive before Lunar New Year to arouse the alertness of residents and shop owners to criminal activities and to report crimes.

End

#### Tsim Sha Tsui Fire Station open day

\* \* \* \* \*

Tsim Sha Tsui Fire Station will be open to members of the public from 10.30 am to 4 pm on Sunday (January 28).

The open day is part of the Fire Services Department's programme to publicise the 1995-96 Fire Prevention Campaign.

Visitors will be able to see various modern appliances, fire-fighting and rescue demonstrations, fireboat water display and an exhibition on the theme of this year's campaign - fire prevention in commercial premises.

Fire Protection Bureau officers will also be on hand to give fire safety advice and to distribute information leaflets.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 10.30 am by the Chief Fire Officer (Kowloon), Mr Henry Tang Siu, and the chairmen of five District Boards in Kowloon.

Tsim Sha Tsui Fire Station is at 333 Canton Road, Kowloon.

End

### Stonecutters Island open day

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HMS Tamar Naval Base and Depot Hong Kong Military Service Corps (HKMSC) on Stonecutters Island will open their gates to the public when they hold a two-day open day tomorrow (Saturday) and on Sunday (January 28) to raise funds for the Hong Kong Locally Enlisted Personnel Trust.

Ships, helicopters and assault craft will feature in spectacular action displays during the two-day event, the second time since the Navy moved from its former base in Central to the present one on Stonecutters Island.

The arena programme also includes traditional lion and dragon dances, thrilling motor-cycle and dog team demonstrations as well as a performance by the Pipes and Drums of 1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

There will also be a large number of souvenirs shops, games stalls and military displays, some of which will provide opportunities for the public to examine and handle selected items of military equipment.

The Hong Kong Locally Enlisted Personnel Trust is set up by the British Forces to provide funds for Hong Kong Chinese ex-members of the British Garrison who may find themselves in need or distress after 1997.

End

### Slope stabilisation works at Fei Tsui Road

\* \* \* \* \*

The Civil Engineering Department is inviting tenders for stabilisation works to a slope at Fei Tsui Road in Chai Wan.

The slope which failed on August 13 last year will be upgraded to meet current standards.

The works will include installation of soil nails, cutting back of existing slopes, recompaction of fill, construction of retaining wall, and provision of surface drainage, hydroseeding and surface protection to finished slope surfaces.

The contract will start in March for completion in 12 months.

Tender forms and further particulars of the slope stabilisation project can be obtained from Peter Fraenkel BMT (Asia) Ltd, seventh floor, Swire and Maclaine House, 21 Austin Avenue, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.

Tender offers for the project will close at noon on February 16.

End

Engineering works for Lamma Island approved

\* \* \* \* \*

The Governor-in-Council has approved a series of engineering works to be carried out at Yung Shue Wan, Lamma Island.

The proposed works include the construction of about 410 metres of seawall, the reconstruction of an existing pier and the reclamation of about 1.1 hectares of foreshore and sea-bed at the southern portion of Yung Shue Wan.

The works are to provide land for essential facilities including a refuse transfer station, sewerage treatment works, loading/unloading areas, parking area for village vehicles, a site designated for industrial (rural workshop) purpose and a dangerous goods store.

The extent of the foreshore and sea-bed affected is contained in a notice published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

Any person who considers that his interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and sea-bed involved will be injuriously affected by the works should submit a written claim for compensation to the Director of Lands before January 26, 1997.

The person who submits the claim should state the sum of money he is willing to accept in full and final settlement of his claim. He should also submit particulars to substantiate his claim.

The notice together with related plans can be seen at the Lands Department, Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong (where copies can be purchased on order) and at the Islands District Office, 20th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.

End

#### Improvements to Tseung Kwan O water supply system

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The Water Supplies Department is inviting tenders for the construction of Tseung Kwan O salt water booster pumping station, service reservoirs and associated mainlaying.

Works will involve the building of a salt water booster pumping station and two salt water service reservoirs together with the laying of about 3,500 metre long ductile iron and steel salt water mains in Tseung Kwan O new town.

The works form part of the \$180 million Water Supply to Tseung Kwan O Stage III project.

Construction will commence in May and scheduled for completion in 18 months. On completion, existing water supply system in Tseung Kwan O new town will be improved to meet increasing demand.

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

Tenders must be clearly marked and addressed to the Chairman of the Central Tender Board.

They must be placed in the Government Secretariat Tender Box at the lift lobby, lower ground floor, Central Government Offices (East Wing), Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong before noon on Friday, March 1.

Late tenders will not be accepted.

End

Draft Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau Outline Zoning Plan amended

\* \* \* \* \*

The Town Planning Board today (Friday) announced amendments to the draft Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau Outline Zoning Plan.

Three 'Government/Institution/Community' (GIC) sites at Aberdeen Praya Road, Shum Wan Road and Ap Lei Chau Drive, with areas of about 0.43 hectare, 1.5 hectares and 0.9 hectare respectively, have been rezoned to 'Residential (Group A)' to facilitate the implementation of three private sector participation schemes, a spokesman for the Town Planning Board said.

"These developments, scheduled to be completed by 2000, will provide a total of about 3,000 flats to accommodate about 10,000 persons," he said.

Another amendment is to rezone a site adjoining Ap Lei Chau Bridge Road from 'GIC' to 'Green Belt'.

The amendment plan (No S/H15/7) is now available for public inspection until February 16 during normal office hours at:

- \* Planning Department, 16th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong;
- \* Hong Kong District Planning Office, 11th floor, Leighton Centre, 77 Leighton Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong; and
- \* Southern District Office, Shop 25, ground floor, Mei Fung Court, Aberdeen Centre, Aberdeen, Hong Kong.

Any person affected by the amendment plan may submit written objections to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Planning Department, 13th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong, before February 16.

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

End

Tenders invited for school construction works

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for the construction of a primary school in Area 2 in Tsuen Wan.

Works will involve construction of an eight-storey classroom block, an assembly hall and ancillary staff quarters covering a total floor area of 8,343 square metres, together with drainage and external works.

On completion, the school will incorporate 30 classrooms, four special rooms, three remedial teaching rooms, an assembly hall and ancillary facilities, basketball court, covered playground and car park.

In addition, there will be interview rooms, staff room and common room, a student activity centre, a library and facilities for the disabled.

Meanwhile, tenders are also invited for carrying out conversion and extension works in eight aided schools as part of the School Improvement Programme.

Details of the two tender invitations can be seen in the Government Gazette published today (Friday).

Forms of the two tenders and further particulars may be obtained from the Architectural Services Department, 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Tenders must be clearly marked and addressed to the Chairman of the Central Tender Board.

They must be placed in the Government Secretariat tender box at the lift lobby, lower ground floor, Central Government Offices (East Wing), Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong, before noon on March 1.

Late tenders will not be accepted.

End

Tenders invited for works at Stanley Prison

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for site formation and construction works at the Stanley Prison.

The works, which will cover a total site area of 30,800 square metres, include the site formation for and the construction of an access road and a football field, together with associated drainage and ancillary works.

Forms of tender and further particulars may be obtained from the department at 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Tenders must be clearly marked and addressed to the Chairman of the Central Tender Board.

They must be placed in the Government Secretariat tender box at the lift lobby, lower ground floor, Central Government Offices (East Wing), Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong before noon on Friday, February 16.

Late tenders will not be accepted.

End

Fresh water cut in Kennedy Town

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Kennedy Town on Hong Kong Island will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm next Monday (January 29) to 6 am the following day to facilitate testing of watermains.

All premises along Collinson Street, numbers 20-21 Kennedy Town Praya, all odd numbers premises at 1-9 Li Po Lung Path, all even numbers premises at 12, 18A-134 and odd numbers premises at 13, 41-65 Belcher's Street, Li Po Lung Terrace, Tai Pak Terrace, all odd numbers premises at 1C-1M Sands Street, all even numbers premises at 16-30 and odd numbers premises at 29-41 North Street, all even numbers premises at 12-12H and odd numbers premises at 43-43A Smithfield, and all even numbers premises at 34-40 Forbes Street.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

\* \* \* \* \*

	\$ million -----	Time (hours) -----	Cumulative change (\$million) -----
Opening balance in the account	3,118	0930	-815
Closing balance in the account	2,545	1000	-815
Change attributable to :		1100	-815
Money market activity	-593	1200	-618
LAF today	+20	1500	-593
		1600	-593

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 124.1 \*+0.2\* 26.1.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.56	2 years	2711	5.60	100.62	5.30
1 month	5.48	3 years	3901	5.57	100.31	5.53
3 months	5.39	5 years	5012	6.38	102.25	5.93
6 months	5.33	7 years	7211	6.82	103.85	6.21
12 months	5.23	5 years	M502	7.30	104.85	6.21

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$14,440 million

Closed January 26, 1996

End