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## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Transcript of the Governor's media session

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The following is the transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, after attending the Community Chest Walk for Million at So Kon Po in Happy Valley this(Sunday) morning:

Question: Governor, do you think the ICAC report on Laurence Leung should be released to Legco hearing?

Governor: I think you will get a full response from that, from the Chief Secretary and the Secretary for the Civil Service this week. Okay?

Question: Governor, what sort of role you are playing in this case?

Governor: About what?

Question: About your role?

Governor: I don't think there is any confusion at all. I think the Secretary for the Civil Service has made it absolutely clear.

Question: Would you make the order?

Governor: I don't make any orders. But I know what's going on. And everything that's been done by the Secretary for the Civil Service and others has been with my complete support and endorsement.

End

Response to enquiries on SARPC legal sub-group recommendations

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In response to media inquiries on certain recommendations made by the Legal Sub-group of the SARPC, a government spokesman said:

"These recommendations are sadly predictable and a retrograde step which will deal a body blow to human rights protection in Hong Kong.

"We see no legal justification whatever for repealing Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Bill of Rights Ordinance(BORO). These provisions are fully consistent with the Basic Law and do not give the BORO a status superior to the Basic Law.

"We would also regard it as extremely damaging to repeal the Public Order Ordinance and the Societies Ordinance and to reinstate the two old ordinances which we believe to be inconsistent with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

"It is hard to reconcile this with the provisions of the Basic Law which provide for the continued application of the ICCPR to Hong Kong after 1997.

"We hope that these misguided recommendations are not adopted as this would only send a most worrying signal to the people of Hong Kong and the international community."

End

#### Youngsters recognised for outstanding volunteer services

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Forty-four young volunteers were awarded scholarships in recognition of their contributions to the Summer Youth Programme(SYP).

At the Summer Youth Programme Scholarship Presentation Ceremony today (Sunday), 44 SYP volunteers aged 15 to 26 were awarded scholarships to join either a 18-day Outward Bound Training Course or a study tour to Kagoshima, Japan.

Of the 44 awardees, 33 are students and 11 are clerical staff, engineers, technicians and advertising professionals.

One of the awardees, 20-year-old Chan Hak-lun, is particularly pleased with the recognition. Mr Chan was diagnosed to be of low intelligence and suffered from autism in primary one and was admitted to study in a special school. With his perseverance and his determination to excel, he attended a government evening institute to keep up with the normal grammar school's curriculum. With an intelligence score of 90, he is continuing his studies at a vocational training centre for the disabled.

Mr Chan was nominated for the award for his outstanding performance in a SYP programme organised by the Richmond Fellowship. The programme included five sessions of lectures on mental illness and two days of practical work. According to his nominator, Ms L A Barker, he has "demonstrated strong leadership, a high degree of commitment as well as genuine concern for the well-being of his fellow participants."

Mr Chan impressed the selection board as very articulate and versatile. His artistic talent is beyond doubt as his paintings had been sent more than once to represent Hong Kong in the International Exhibition of Art organised by the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults, UK. In 1994 he won the Outstanding Disabled Persons Award by Rotary International.

Mr Chan has opted to join the Study Tour to Kagoshima, Japan in July.

End

#### Meet-the-public session on slope safety continues

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Government engineers and building surveyors will meet members of the public again on January 28 (Tuesday) to provide them with firsthand information on slope safety.

This is the third meet-the-public session organised jointly by the Civil Engineering Department and the Buildings Department to further promote among the public the importance of maintaining their slopes on a regular basis, and what should be done to ensure slope safety.

The session will be held from 2.30 to 5 pm at the conference room of the Central and Western District Office, 11th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central.

Members of the public who are interested in attending the session can make prior appointments on 2852 3492 during office hours. Appointments will be arranged on a first-come, first-served basis.

End

### Spring scrolls to spread child care message

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The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has produced five sets of spring scrolls appealing to members of the public to make full use of the occasional child care service.

Free copies of the spring scrolls, totalling 250,000, are now available for collection from all district offices of the SWD on a first-come, first-served basis.

"Children should under no circumstances be left alone, even for a short while," an SWD spokesman said today (Sunday).

"At present, there are 195 child care centres offering a total of 600 occasional child care places to families in need of the service."

Child care centres offer temporary care for children aged under six on two-hour, half-day or whole day basis. The fee for a two-hour session is \$15.

Members of the public who want to know more about the occasional child care service may call the SWD hotline on 2343 2255 or the Child Care Centre Advisory Inspectorate on 2835 2725.

"Parents having any child care problems can seek help from the department's 42 family services centres throughout the territory," the spokesman added.

End

### Special speedpost offer starts tomorrow

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The Postmaster General, Mr Robert Footman, announced today (Sunday) that a special speedpost offer, "SpeedpostPak", will be launched from tomorrow (Monday) to March 15, 1997 (eight weeks).

The SppeedpostPak offer, at five and 10 kilogram, will be available for many destinations in Asia, North America and Europe at rates representing a discount of some 10 per cent to 60 per cent.

"Our objective is to continuously provide our customers with best value international courier service," said Mr Footman.

"The SpeedpostPak offer is a special offer for customers to make good savings on every delivery. In fact, the five-kilogram SpeedpostPak is unique in the market. Furthermore, we provide Speedpost pick-up service on Sundays and Public Holidays."

To take advantage of the offer, customers need to use Postpak boxes. Account customers can call or fax the Speedpost Pick-up Service Centres to order the boxes which will be delivered to them and charged to their accounts. Others can purchase the boxes at any post office.

Enquiries about the SpeedpostPak offer and the pick-up arrangements on Sundays and Public Holidays may be made to the Postal Marketing Division on 2921 2277 (Fax 2541 4868).

Details of the postage rates are as follows:

Destinations	Postage Rates	
	5-kg Option (using Code 01 Postpak carton boxes)	10-kg Option (using Code 02 Postpak carton boxes)
<u>South East Asia Zone</u> Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laso, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam	\$188 (up to 5 kg) \$15 (for each additional 500 g above 5 kg)	\$338 (up to 10 kg) \$15 (for each additional 500 g above 10 kg)
<u>North America and Europe Zone</u> Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Irish Republic, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and USA	\$368 (up to 5 kg) \$35 (for each additional 500 g above 5 kg)	\$718 (up to 10 kg) \$35 (for each additional 500 g above 10 kg)

End

Fresh water cut in Tai Kok Tsui and Sai Kung

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Tai Kok Tsui and Sai Kung will be suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (January 22) to 6 am the following day for waste detections on watermains.

In Tai Kok Tsui, the suspension will affect areas bounded by Cherry Street, Tai Kok Tsui Road, Li Tak Street, Kok Cheung Street, including Ming Kei College and Sharon Lutheran School.

In Sai Kung, the suspension will affect Pik Uk San Tsuen, Ta Ku Ling San Tsuen, Tai Po Tsai San Tsuen, Pik Shui San Tsuen, Hong Hay Villa, Tai Po Tsai Ha Tsuen and Cheng Chek Chee Secondary School.

End