



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Transcript of the Governor's meet-the-media session

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The following is a transcript of the meet-the-media session by the Governor, the Rt. Hon. Christopher Patten, after attending the St. John Ambulance Association Centre for HK and St John Council for HK AGM today (Thursday).

Governor: You all come to ask me about the work of St John who do such a wonderful job for Hong Kong.

Question: Mr Governor, the Democratic Party has announced that they will move a motion of no confidence on you. What do you think of that?

Governor: I'm not losing any sleep about it, nor I think is anybody else in Hong Kong. I think it's gesture politics, empty gesture politics and merely tells us that the Democratic Party's election campaign is starting rather earlier this year. But there is one issue that I am concerned about and that is to ensure that our legislation on the Court of Final Appeal gets through and is supported by majority of the Legislative Council. We'll be working very hard at that so that the people of Hong Kong can enjoy the rule of law up to and beyond 1997 without any interruption.

End/Thursday, June 22, 1995

Briefing-out Review Panel set to start work

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The Attorney General, Mr Jeremy Mathews, today (Thursday) announced the composition of the Working Party, under the chairmanship of the Director of Prosecutions, which will conduct a comprehensive review of the arrangements for the briefing out of cases to barristers and solicitors in private practice.

The review, announced by the Attorney General last month, is one of the measures adopted to improve on briefing out procedures. Most of these procedures, such as the setting up of a selection panel of two Deputy Crown Prosecutors to select private counsel and negotiate fees for non-standard briefing out, have already been put in place.

The Working Party responsible for the review will submit a report to the Attorney General by the end of this year.

Membership of the Working Party is as follows:

Chairman: Mr Peter Nguyen, QC, Director of Public Prosecutions

Members: (alternate) Mr Peter Graham, representative of HK Bar Association

(alternate) Mr Lawrence Lok, QC, representative of HK Bar Association

(alternate) Mr Nick Hunsworth, representative of Law Society of HK

(alternate) Mr Geoffrey Booth, representative of Law Society of HK

Mr Robert Footman, Head, Efficiency Unit

Mr Jerry Richardson, Group Head,
Corruption Prevention Department, ICAC

Mrs Lucia Li, Assistant Director (Accounting Services)

Mr Alan Lai, Deputy Secretary for the Treasury

Mr Samuel Leung Shiu-kee, Deputy Crown Prosecutor

Mr Chan Shu-ying, Deputy Crown Solicitor (Litigation)

Mr Peter Cheung Hok-kwong, Chambers Manager,
Attorney General's Chambers

Mr Simon Chan King-shing, Treasury Accountant,
Attorney General's Chambers

Secretary: Mr Galvin Ure

The Hong Kong Bar Association and the Law Society of Hong Kong have alternate representatives so that contributions from both civil and criminal specialists may be made.

The terms of reference of the Working Party are as follows:

"To consider the arrangements for the briefing out of both civil and criminal cases to solicitors and barristers in private practice by the Attorney General's Chambers, and to make such recommendations for briefing out on a cost effective and accountable basis as may be thought necessary, and in particular to consider and make recommendations on -

- (a) the criteria and procedures for selection of solicitors and counsel for inclusion in a list of approved practitioners;
- (b) the criteria and procedures for selection of practitioners for individual cases;
- (c) the terms of appointment of practitioners;
- (d) the direction and monitoring of work assigned;
- (e) record-keeping and internal budgetary control arrangements; and
- (f) the certification and payment of fees,

and to report to the Attorney General by 31 December 1995."

End/Thursday, June 22, 1995

Consumer Price Indices for May 1995

* * * * *

The year-on-year rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index (A) moderated to 9.1% in May 1995, from 9.6% in April. This is shown in the latest Consumer Price Indices released today (Thursday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Moderated increases were also recorded for the CPI(B) and the Hang Seng CPI. In May, both indices rose by 9.5% over a year earlier, as compared to the increases of 9.9% and 9.8% in April.

The Composite CPI, which is compiled based on the combined expenditure pattern of all households, thus had a less rapid increase of 9.3% in May, against 9.8% in April.

Commenting on this moderation, a Government spokesman said slower increases in the prices of food, particularly vegetables, was the main contributory factor.

Also relevant was the decelerated increase in the prices of clothing and footwear.

The other components generally recorded stable to slightly more moderate price increases.

As for transport, the relatively faster price increase was largely due to fare revision by the three railways in May.

Comparing May 1995 with May 1994, relatively faster price increases than the overall average increase were recorded for housing (12.4% in the CPI(A), 13.8% in the CPI(B) and 13.1% in the Composite CPI); miscellaneous services (11.4%, 10.5% and 10.3%); fuel and light (9.9%, 10.1% and 9.7%); and clothing and footwear (9.4%, 9.9% and 9.2%).

On the other hand, relatively slower price increases than the overall average increase were recorded for durable goods (4.3% in the CPI(A), 4.2% in the CPI(B) and 4.3% in the Composite CPI); alcoholic drinks and tobacco (6.5%, 5.8% and 6.2%); meals bought away from home (7.0%, 6.8% and 7.2%); transport (7.3%, 7.5% and 7.4%); food (excluding meals bought away from home) (8.1%, 8.0% and 8.1%); and miscellaneous goods (8.3%, 7.2% and 7.5%).

Comparing May 1995 with April 1995, the CPI(A) and CPI(B) increased by 0.4% and 0.5% respectively. The corresponding increase for the Composite CPI was 0.6%.

Taking the first five months together, the increases in the CPI(A) and CPI(B) averaged at 9.4% and 9.9% respectively over a year earlier. The corresponding increase for the Composite CPI was 9.7%.

For the three months ended May 1995, the CPI(A) and CPI(B) were, on average, higher by 9.4% and 9.8% respectively over a year earlier. The corresponding increase for the Composite CPI was 9.6%.

For the 12 months ended May 1995, the CPI(A) and CPI(B) were, on average, higher by 8.9% and 9.4% respectively than in the preceding 12-month period. The corresponding increase for the Composite CPI was 9.4%.

Seasonally adjusted series are also available for the CPIs. The deseasonalised CPI(A) and CPI(B) increased at an average rate of 0.8% and 0.7% per month during the three months ended May 1995. The corresponding increase for the Composite CPI was 0.8%.

Further details are shown in Tables 1-2 and Charts 1-4.

The Consumer Price Index Report

More details are given in the "Consumer Price Index Report" for May 1995, which is available at \$23 per copy from the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong; or from the Publications Section of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

For local and overseas mailings, contact should be made with the Information Services Department, 28th floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

For enquiries about the indices, please telephone the Consumer Price Index Section of the Census and Statistics Department on tel 2805 6403.

Details regarding the Hang Seng CPI are contained in the Hang Seng CPI Report issued by the Economic Research Department of Hang Seng Bank Ltd.

Table 1 Consumer Price Indices and Rates of Increase for May 1995
(Oct. 89 - Sep. 90 = 100)

<u>Component</u>	<u>CPI(A)</u>		<u>CPI(B)</u>		<u>Hang Seng CPI</u>		<u>Composite CPI</u>	
	<u>Index for May 95</u>	<u>% change over May 94</u>	<u>Index for May 95</u>	<u>% change over May 94</u>	<u>Index for May 95</u>	<u>% change over May 94</u>	<u>Index for May 95</u>	<u>% change over May 94</u>
Food	149.3	+7.5	151.4	+7.3	154.3	+8.1	151.1	+7.5
Meals bought away from home	161.6	+7.0	160.9	+6.8	162.5	+8.1	161.5	+7.2
Food, excluding meals bought away from home	137.1	+8.1	138.3	+8.0	140.2	+8.0	138.0	+8.1
Housing	182.7	+12.4	187.0	+13.8	192.3	+12.8	187.3	+13.1
Fuel and light	134.8	+9.9	134.4	+10.1	133.0	+8.5	134.3	+9.7
Alcoholic drinks and tobacco	198.5	+6.5	187.5	+5.8	182.4	+5.7	192.3	+6.2
Clothing and footwear	153.2	+9.4	156.2	+9.9	172.4	+8.2	161.0	+9.2
Durable goods	117.3	+4.3	117.1	+4.2	123.2	+4.4	119.0	+4.3
Miscellaneous goods	141.4	+8.3	136.8	+7.2	135.3	+6.9	138.1	+7.5
Transport	159.4	+7.3	158.2	+7.5	156.2	+7.4	158.1	+7.4
Miscellaneous services	172.8	+11.4	166.2	+10.5	154.3	+8.9	164.7	+10.3
All items	158.1	+9.1	159.9	+9.5	164.2	+9.5	160.4	+9.3

Monthly consumer price indices are compiled on the basis of (a) expenditure patterns of relevant households and (b) prices collected currently in the month. The expenditure patterns underlying the 1989/90-based consumer price indices are based on those patterns derived from the 1989/90 Household Expenditure Survey. The CPI(A) is based on the expenditure pattern of about 50% of households in Hong Kong, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$2,500-\$9,999 in 1989/90(broadly equivalent to \$3,600-\$14,600 at 1994 prices). The CPI(B) is based on the expenditure pattern of the next 30% of households, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$10,000-\$17,499 in 1989/90(broadly equivalent to \$14,600-\$26,000 at 1994 prices). The Hang Seng CPI is based on the expenditure pattern of the next 10% of households, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$17,500-\$37,499 in 1989/90(broadly equivalent to \$26,000-\$56,000 at 1994 prices).

Whereas the CPI(A), CPI(B) and Hang Seng CPI are based on the expenditure patterns of groups of households with different magnitudes of household expenditure, the Composite CPI is compiled based on the expenditure pattern of all these households taken together. Thus, while the CPI(A), CPI(B) and Hang Seng CPI show the impact of consumer price changes on different groups of households, the Composite CPI shows the impact of consumer price changes on the household sector generally.

Table 2 Consumer Price Indices for May 1992 - May 1995
(Oct. 89 - Sep. 90 = 100)

Year/month		CPI(A)	CPI(B)	Hang Seng CPI	Composite CPI
1992	May	124.0	123.8	124.2	124.0
	June	125.3	125.1	125.2	125.2
	July	125.5	125.4	125.4	125.4
	August	125.6	125.9	125.8	125.8
	September	128.3	127.9	127.5	128.0
	October	128.4	128.4	128.6	128.5
	November	128.5	129.0	129.9	129.0
	December	129.3	129.8	130.0	129.7
	January	131.8	131.6	131.5	131.7
	February	132.4	132.2	132.0	132.2
	March	132.0	132.2	133.1	132.4
	April	133.5	133.9	134.5	133.9
1993	May	134.5	134.8	136.3	135.1
	June	136.0	135.9	137.1	136.3
	July	135.8	136.1	136.9	136.2
	August	136.3	136.6	137.4	136.7
	September	138.4	138.3	139.2	138.6
	October	140.0	139.6	140.7	140.0
	November	139.4	139.9	142.2	140.3
	December	140.4	140.9	143.3	141.3
	January	140.0	140.7	143.4	141.1
	February	142.7	142.9	144.9	143.3
	March	142.5	143.0	145.3	143.4
	April	143.8	144.8	147.9	145.2
1994	May	145.0	146.1	150.0	146.7
	June	146.2	146.9	151.0	147.7
	July	147.3	147.9	150.5	148.3
	August	149.6	149.6	151.7	150.1
	September	150.3	150.8	153.4	151.3
	October	151.1	152.2	155.3	152.6
	November	151.4	153.1	157.3	153.5
	December	153.0	154.3	158.1	154.8
	January	154.1	155.3	158.2	155.6
	February	155.4	156.6	159.0	156.7
	March	156.1	157.4	159.7	157.5
	April	157.6	159.2	162.3	159.4
1995	May	158.1	159.9	164.2	160.4

Chart 1 Year-on-year Rates of Increase
in CPI(A)

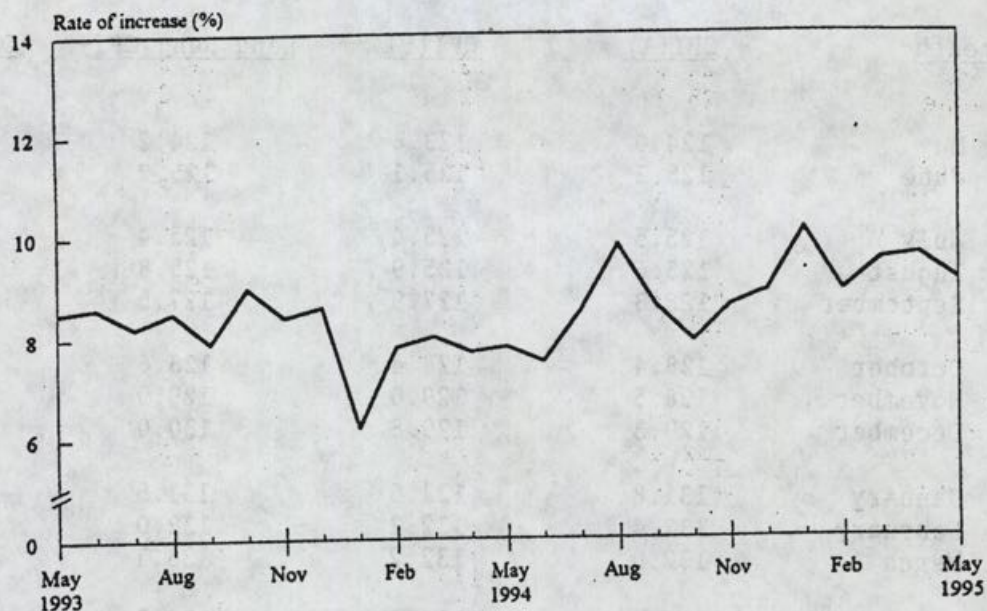


Chart 2 Year-on-year Rates of Increase
in CPI(B)

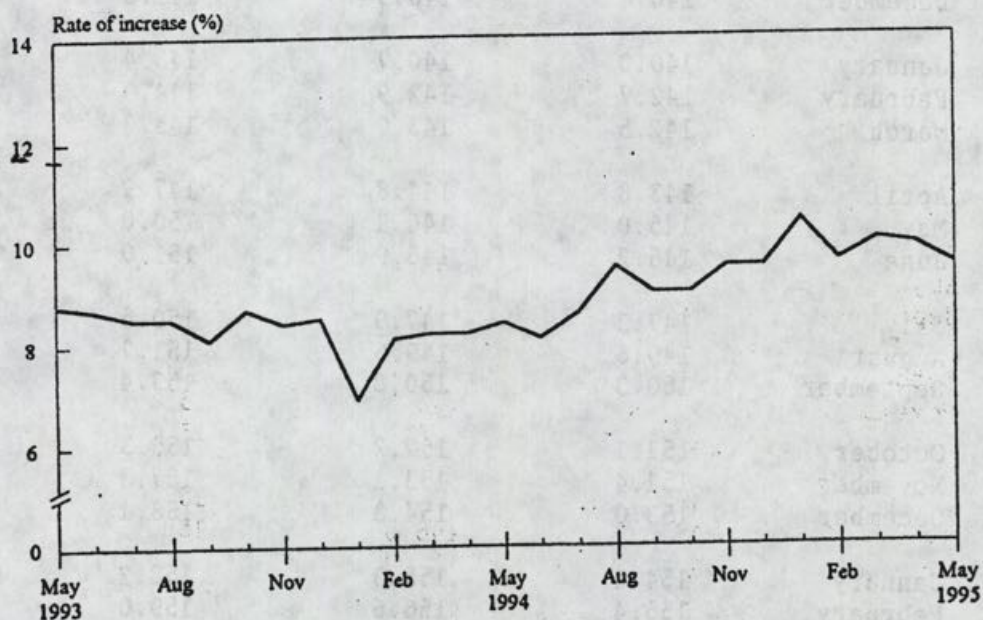


**Chart 3 Year-on-year Rates of Increase
in Hang Seng CPI**

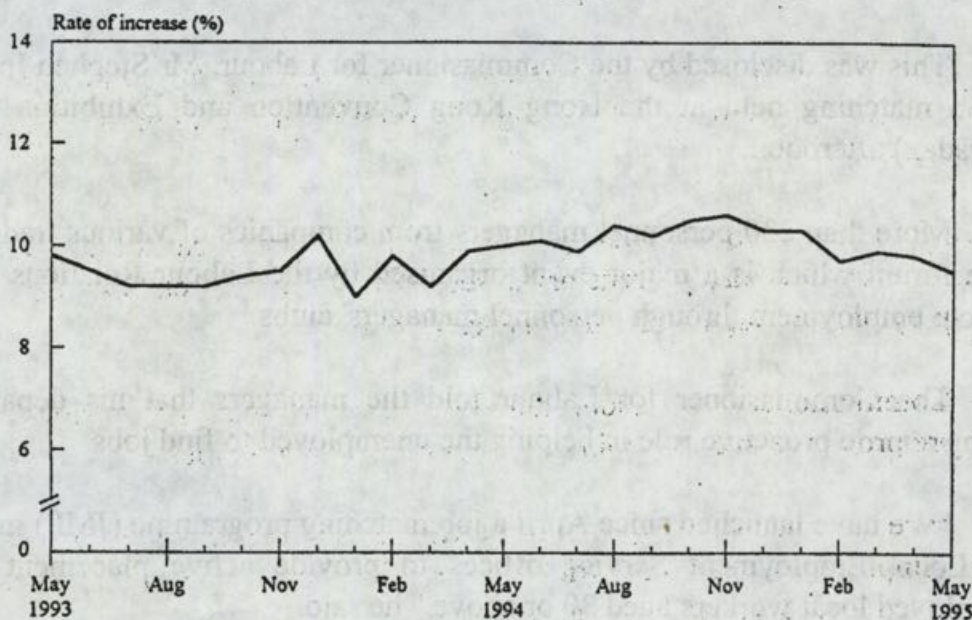
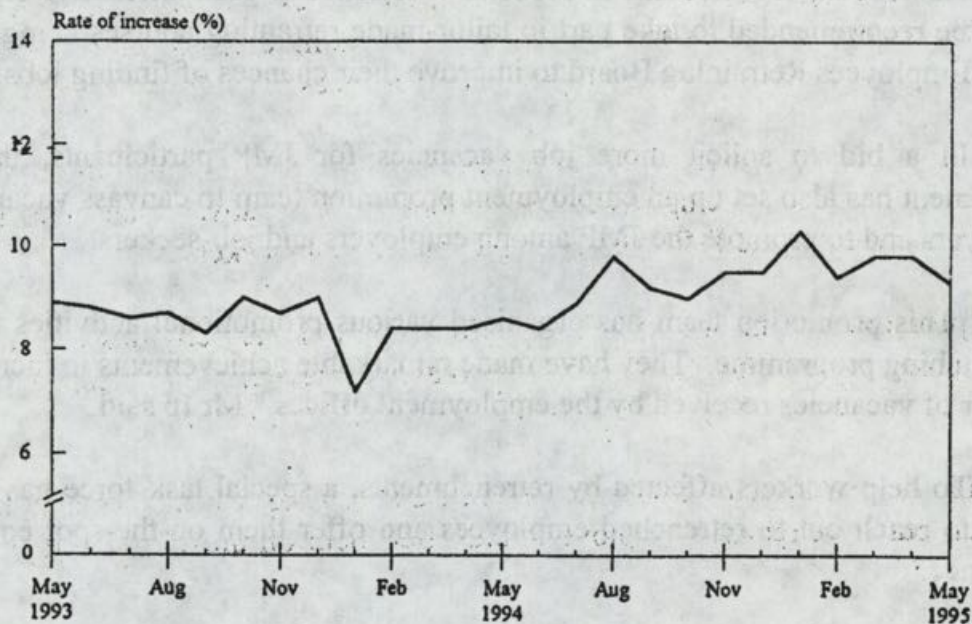


**Chart 4 Year-on-year Rates of Increase
in Composite CPI**



More measures to promote employment

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The Labour Department is taking more proactive measures to promote employment and to combat illegal employment in the territory.

This was disclosed by the Commissioner for Labour, Mr Stephen Ip, at a forum on job matching held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre this (Thursday) afternoon.

More than 230 personnel managers from companies of various trades took part in the forum which is a major event organised by the Labour Relations Division to promote employment through personnel managers' clubs.

The Commissioner for Labour told the managers that his department was playing a more proactive role in helping the unemployed to find jobs.

"We have launched since April a job matching programme (JMP) in five of our nine Local Employment Service offices to provide active placement service to unemployed local workers aged 30 or above," he said.

"This pilot scheme has proved to be a success as about 30 per cent of the 784 registrants have been placed. With the support of the Legislative Council in the creation of 23 additional posts in my department, the scheme could be expanded to all nine employment offices throughout the territory in the next few months."

He added that registrants of the JMP who failed to seek alternative employment would be recommended to take part in tailor-made retraining courses being organised by the Employees Retraining Board to improve their chances of finding jobs.

In a bid to solicit more job vacancies for JMP participants, the Labour Department has also set up an employment promotion team to canvass vacancies from employers and to promote the JMP among employers and job-seekers.

"This promotion team has organised various promotional activities to sell the job matching programme. They have made remarkable achievements in increasing the number of vacancies received by the employment offices," Mr Ip said.

To help workers affected by retrenchments, a special task force has also been set up to reach out to retrenched employees and offer them on-the-spot employment assistance.

The Commissioner said at the forum that the Labour Department was stepping up enforcement action against illegal employment by launching vigorous inspections and special campaigns.

"Our labour inspectors have recently joined hands with their counterparts in the Immigration Department in an operation in which 34 persons were arrested for allegedly taking up illegal employment.

"We will also step up enforcement actions against abuses of the labour importation schemes by making more inspections to places of employment and accommodations of imported workers to check whether there are any breaches of contract and the employment law," he added.

The managers taking part in today's forum pledged to offer some 1,700 job vacancies for job-seekers wanting free employment services from the Labour Department.

End/Thursday, June 22, 1995

Proposed rules to guard against misuse of voters' data

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The Boundary and Election Commission (BEC) proposes to tighten up its provisions to safeguard against misuse of information on the voter register by restricting the request for and the use of such data exclusively for the purpose related to a particular election.

Under the new provisions, the Registration Officer (RO) is required to specify the particular election in respect of which the copy or extract of the provisional or the final register may be used, when such a copy or extract is required.

The provisions also makes it an offence, punishable with a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment up to six months, for a person to use or permit another person to use any information in that copy or extract of the register for a purpose other than the particular election specified by the RO.

Amendments are contained in the Boundary and Election Commission (Registration of Electors) (Geographical Constituencies) (Amendment) Regulation 1995 and the Boundary and Election Commission (Registration of Electors) (Functional Constituencies and Election Committee Constituencies) (Amendment) Regulation 1995.

A BEC spokesman said, pending the amendments, the two Regulations stipulated that the RO may at any time make available a copy or an extract from the provisional or final register to a person for any purpose related to an election.

The person is liable to a fine and imprisonment if he uses such information for a purpose irrelevant to an election.

The proposed amendments, to be gazetted and tabled in the Legislative Council tomorrow (Friday), were introduced after taking into account public views and comments on the electoral arrangement for the last Municipal Council ordinary elections on March 5.

End/ Thursday, June 22, 1995

Water quality at Chek Lap Kok site

* * * * *

The airport site at Chek Lap Kok is provided with chlorinated raw water for construction activities, which is also suitable for drinking and domestic use, a spokesman for the Water Supplies Department said today (Thursday).

Water is delivered from Cheung Sha to the airport site through a supply system which is also connected to some other construction sites at Tung Chung as well as some nearby villages.

"The quality of water at the source and along the supply network is continuously monitored and confirmed to be in full compliance with Water Supplies Department (WSD) standards," the spokesman said.

He said WSD received a complaint of unsatisfactory water quality at the airport site in late May. Two samples were taken from the site on May 29 for testing. The result of one of the samples was not satisfactory as indicated by the presence of E Coli and coliform organisms.

"We believe that the unsatisfactory water quality was due to a connection of the internal supply system to a contaminated water tank by one of the airport site contractors," he said.

"The Provisional Airport Authority (PAA) was immediately notified and the fault was expeditiously rectified. Further sampling and inspection were conducted on June 1 and the results of all samples were satisfactory."

A meeting was held between WSD and PAA on June 21 to sort out the problem. Close monitoring of the water quality at the airport site on a regular basis will be made to ensure its full compliance with stipulated standards.

The supply of fully treated water to Chek Lap Kok would start sometime next year following the completion of a permanent system, the spokesman added.

End/Thursday, June 22, 1995

Grading of beach water quality

* * * * *

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (Thursday) announced grades on the bacteriological water quality of all bathing beaches in Hong Kong.

The purpose of the grading system is to inform swimmers and the general public about the state of bacteriological pollution at various beaches.

The grading will be announced bi-weekly during the bathing season to coincide with the frequency at which beach waters are usually sampled.

The grading is based on the most recent data obtained by EPD in its routine monitoring programme.

It gives an estimate on the risk of contracting some minor skin or gastrointestinal illnesses resulted from swimming at a beach with some degree of pollution.

The estimate is based on a large scale epidemiological study carried out in Hong Kong in the past bathing seasons.

The grading of some beaches fluctuates during the summer. In most cases, this represents a natural fluctuation in the bacteriological quality of bathing waters as rain and tides bring more or less pollution to the beaches.

Beaches with highly developed hinterlands are likely to be more polluted than the grades suggested during and after heavy rain.

Principal Environmental Protection Officer Dr Malcolm Broom said: "Bathers should avoid swimming at such beaches for two to three days after a storm, or even longer if the weather remains overcast, shorter if there is strong sunshine."

However, the bi-weekly grades give a general picture of the most recent water quality at bathing beaches at the time of reporting and form the best available forecast for the immediate future.

The system for grading beach water quality is as follows :

Grade "1" indicates that the water quality is good. The E. coli count is no more than 24 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected risk of minor illness to swimmers is undetectable.

Grade "2" indicates that the water quality is fair. The E. coli count is no more than 180 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is no more than 10 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

Grade "3" indicates that the water quality is poor. The E. coli count is no more than 610 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is no more than 15 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

Grade "4" indicates that the water quality is very poor. The E. coli count is more than 610 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is more than 15 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

The decision whether or not to close a beach to swimmers is based on a judgment of what degree of pollution is acceptable.

Normally, the closure of a beach would only be considered by the Urban or Regional Council if a grade "4" occurred repeatedly, so that the average health risk over the bathing season exceeded 15 cases per 1,000 swimmers.

At present four gazetted beaches, namely Anglers', Castle Peak, Old Cafeteria, and Rocky Bay, are closed to swimmers. The decision to close the beaches has been made by the Regional and Urban Councils on the basis of beach water quality monitoring data for 1994. The public are advised not to swim at these beaches. They are identified by an "X" in the following list.

The grades of the bacteriological water quality of various beaches in Hong Kong today are listed below:

Beach	Previous Grading (as at 8.6.95)	Present Grading (as at 22.6.95)
<u>Hong Kong South</u>		
Big Wave Bay	2	2
Chung Hom Kok	1	1
Deep Water Bay	1	1
Hairpin	2	2
Middle Bay	1	2
Repulse Bay	1	1
Shek O	2	2
South Bay	1	1
St. Stephen's	1	1
Turtle Cove	1	1
Stanley Main	2	3
Rocky Bay	X	X
To Tei Wan*	1	1

Tuen Mun District

Golden Beach	2	2
Old Cafeteria	X	X
New Cafeteria	2	2
Castle Peak	X	X
Kadoorie	2	2
Butterfly	2	3

Sai Kung District

Campers	1	1
Clear Water Bay 1st Beach	2	2
Clear Water Bay 2nd Beach	2	2
Hap Mun Bay	2	2
Kiu Tsui	1	1
Pak Sha Chau	1	1
Silverstrand	2	2
Trio (Hebe Haven)	1	2

Islands District

Cheung Sha Upper	1	1
Cheung Sha Lower	3	3
Discovery Bay*	2	2
Hung Shing Yeh	1	1
Kwun Yam Wan	2	2
Tong Fuk	1	1
Lo So Shing	1	1
Pui O	2	2
Silvermine Bay	2	2
Tung Wan, Cheung Chau	2	2
Tung O*	1	1

Tsuen Wan District

Anglers'	X	X
Approach	3	4
Casam	3	3
Gemini	3	3
Hoi Mei Wan	3	3
Lido	3	3
Ting Kau	4	4
Tung Wan, Ma Wan	2	2

Note: "X" The beach has been closed for swimming purposes.

* Non-gazetted beaches.

The following beaches have changed grading on this occasion:

Middle Bay and Trio (Hebe Haven) from "1" to "2", Stanley Main and Butterfly from "2" to "3", and Approach from "3" to "4".

The changes are within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of these beaches.

Note to Editors:

For further enquiries, please contact Principal Environmental Protection Officer Dr Malcolm Broom, on tel 2835 1234.

End/Thursday, June 22, 1995

Consultative paper on calling number display

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The Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) will issue tomorrow (Friday) a consultative paper entitled "Calling Number Display".

The paper explains what Calling Number Display (CND) is and invites public views on the questions of whether CND services should be introduced in Hong Kong and what privacy safeguards should be offered to consumers in using CND services.

"CND is a service which automatically identifies the telephone number of the line from where the call is being made to the receiver. The number is displayed before the telephone is answered," a spokesman for OFTA explained.

"A basic CND service has at its core a privacy dilemma: the service simultaneously takes privacy away from the caller and enhances privacy to the receiver.

"Most telephone users are likely to find the service useful for call screening but some may have difficulties under certain situations.

"In particular, CND service may make it harder to make anonymous calls where the caller does not want to reveal his or her identity or where the caller does not want to reveal the identity of the line from which they are calling, for example, in certain help-lines."

CND service is a telecommunications service but its impact goes beyond telecommunications. This consultative paper attempts to set the provision of such a service in its wider context and will also focus on issues related to data protection and personal privacy apart from telecommunications issues.

OFTA will consider the feedback from the public and the industry before mapping out new regulatory policy to address the privacy needs of the called and the calling parties.

Copies of the consultative paper may be obtained at any of the 18 District Offices or the Office of the Telecommunications Authority or by dialling into the bulletin board service of OFTA (telephone: 2834 0119).

All views and comments on the consultative paper should be submitted in writing in Chinese or English to OFTA before August 31, 1995 at the following address:

Office of the Telecommunications Authority
29/F, Wu Chung House
213 Queen's Road East
Wan Chai
Hong Kong

Attn: Senior Administrative Officer (Regulatory)

End/Thursday, June 22, 1995

1993 survey result of building, construction and real estate sectors

* * * * *

The gross output performed by construction establishments during 1993 amounted to \$151.6 billion, representing an increase of 22.9% over 1992. This comprised a gross value of \$148.4 billion for the construction work performed and an income of \$3.1 billion from other sources.

Net of total operating expenditure, the gross operating surplus amounted to 6.5% of the gross output in 1993. This was 0.5 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding figure of 6.0% for 1992.

These are some of the major findings of the 1993 Survey of Building, Construction and Real Estate Sectors, released today (Thursday) by the Census and Statistics Department. The survey was conducted from April 1994 to early 1995.

All value figures in this press release are expressed in current price terms. The percentage changes derived from these figures have not been adjusted for price increases. Caution should therefore be taken in interpreting the survey results.

In terms of percentage of gross output, the operating expenditure incurred by construction establishments amounted to 93.5% in 1993. This comprised 22.0% for compensation of employees and payments to labour-only sub-contractors; 21.5% for consumption of materials, supplies, and maintenance services; 42.3% for payments for fee sub-contract work; and 7.7% for other miscellaneous operating expenses.

Compared with 1992, the percentage for compensation of employees and payments to labour-only sub-contractors decreased by 2.3 percentage points; and that for consumption of materials, supplies, and maintenance services by 1.7 percentage points.

The percentage for payments for fee sub-contract work rose by 2.6 percentage points; and that for other miscellaneous operating expenses by 0.9 of a percentage point.

The value added of these establishments, which is a measure of the construction industry's contribution to Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product, amounted to \$43.2 billion in 1993. This represented an increase of 15.7% over 1992.

The value added content of the gross output performed by these establishments amounted to 28.5%, comprising 22.0% for compensation of employees and payments to labour-only sub-contractors and 6.5% for gross operating surplus. Compared with 1992, the former proportion decreased by 2.3 percentage points and the latter increased by 0.5 of a percentage point.

The survey results also showed that 17,100 construction establishments operated in 1993.

Some 39.3% of the construction establishments were engaged in decoration, repair and maintenance of erected buildings and structures. They accounted for \$18.4 billion or 12.1% of the gross output.

On the other hand, the general trade contractors operating at construction sites, though totalling about 5.4% of the establishments, accounted for \$92.6 billion or 61.1% of the gross output.

The rest of the construction establishments consisted mostly of special trade contractors, such as contractors specialising in electrical and mechanical fittings. These contractors constituted 55.3% of the establishments in this industrial sector, and accounted for 26.8% of the gross output.

The survey did not cover labour-only sub-contractors who mainly supplied labour to work on a job-to-job basis. However, the gross value of construction work performed by these sub-contractors had already been included in that performed by those contractors commissioning their services.

Apart from construction establishments, the survey also enumerated establishments engaged in (i) real estate development, leasing, brokerage and maintenance management services, and (ii) architectural, surveying and project engineering services.

The gross output performed by establishments engaged in real estate development, leasing, brokerage and maintenance management services amounted to \$90.7 billion in 1993, representing an increase of 23.1% over 1992. This comprised \$37.9 billion for service and rental income, \$51.1 billion for the gross margin of real estate development projects (excluding land price appreciation) and \$1.6 billion for other incomes.

The gross operating surplus amounted to 79.7% of the gross output in 1993. This was 0.4 of a percentage point higher than the figure of 79.3% for 1992.

The total operating expenditure of these establishments accounted for 20.3% of the gross output. Compared with 1992, this decreased by 0.4 of a percentage point.

The total value added of these establishments was \$79.1 billion in 1993, representing an increase of 24.2% over 1992. It constituted 87.2% of the gross output performed. This was 0.8 of a percentage point higher than the figure of 86.4% for 1992.

These figures did not include establishments which developed real estate projects for their own use, nor did they include those which owned land without developing it during the reference year. Also excluded were real estate leasing and other related activities undertaken by individuals or firms which do not employ any persons.

A total of 7,900 establishments operated in the real estate development, leasing, brokerage and maintenance management services sector in 1993.

As regards establishments engaged in architectural, surveying and project engineering services, the gross output performed was \$7.4 billion, representing an increase of 25.3% over 1992. This consisted of \$7.1 billion for service income and \$0.3 billion for other incomes.

The gross operating surplus amounted to 12.9% of the gross output in 1993, representing a decrease of 0.5 of a percentage point under the figure of 13.4% for 1992.

The total operating expenditure of these establishments accounted for 87.1% of the gross output. This was 0.5 of a percentage point higher than the figure of 86.6% for 1992.

The total value added of these establishments was \$4.6 billion in 1993, representing an increase of 25.8% over 1992. It constituted 61.7% of the gross output performed. Compared with 1992, this increased by 0.3 of a percentage point.

Some 1,110 establishments operated in the architectural, surveying and project engineering services sector in 1993.

For real estate development projects, the value accrued to private sector projects during 1993 was \$77.8 billion, representing an increase of 15.8% over the corresponding value in 1992. The increase was largely due to increased work done in residential buildings and multi-purpose commercial premises.

The total project outlays amounted to \$32.4 billion which included, for instance, payments to contractors and interest payments.

More detailed results will be given in a full survey report to be published around August 1995.

Enquiries regarding these survey results may be directed to the Building, Construction and Real Estate Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on tel 2839 3204.

End/Thursday, June 22, 1995

Movie star joins in the fight against drugs

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Movie star Jackie Chan has shown his commitment to the fight against drug abuse by recording a song to disseminate the message of "Say No to Drugs".

Entitled "Enjoy a good life", the theme song urges youngsters to make full use of their lives and stay away from drugs.

A spokesman for the Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN) said the song would be an effective publicity tool in promoting the anti-drug message among young people.

"Mr Jackie Chan has provided a role model for youngsters to look up to. His participation in the anti-drug campaign will help us to drive home the message that drugs are dangerous and should only be taken under medical supervision," he said.

Mr Chan is among those who have responded to the call for a joint community effort in the fight against drug abuse by the Governor at the Summit Meeting in March.

The theme song will be officially launched at the opening ceremony of the International Anti-drug Day Exhibition organised by ACAN this Saturday (June 24).

The large-scale exhibition is held annually to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking declared by the United Nations General Assembly.

End/Thursday, June 22, 1995

Seminars on functions of parent-teacher association

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The Committee on Home-School Co-operation and the Special School Parent-Teacher Association Network on Saturday (June 24) will hold the opening of a seminar on "Functions of Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and PTA Networking".

About 300 PTA executives will attend the opening of the seminar to discuss topics on "Community Building and Problem Solving" and "PTA Networking".

At the seminar, lecturer of Trinity College of Dublin University, Dr James Moran, and senior lecturer of Hong Kong Institute of Education, Mr Pang I-wah, will give talks on "Community Building and Problem Solving" and "PTA Networking", respectively.

Following the opening, seminars aimed at disseminating the importance of PTA in the future development of Hong Kong Education and exploring the possibility of setting up a territory-wide PTA network will be held on four consecutive Saturdays starting from June 24.

Attention News Editors:

Your representatives are invited to cover the opening of the seminar at 9 am and a media briefing session to be chaired by the Chairman of the Committee on Home-School Co-operation, Mr Tik Chi-yuen, after the seminar at 4 pm on Saturday at Harcourt Room, Hotel Conrad, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway.

End/Thursday, June 22, 1995

Closure of Sham Shui Po illegal structure sought

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The Building Authority is seeking to close an unauthorised structure in Sham Shui Po so that it can be demolished without endangering the occupants and the public.

The single-storey unauthorised structure used for dwelling is located on the roof of a building in 299-301 Tai Nan Street.

A notice of applying for a Closure Order from the District Court under the Buildings Ordinance on October 19 has been posted on the premises today (Thursday).

Demolition work is expected to start as soon as the Closure Order is issued.

End/Thursday, June 22, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,305	0930	+197
Closing balance in the account	1,959	1000	+197
Change attributable to :		1100	+197
Money market activity	+186	1200	+197
LAF today	-532	1500	+197
		1600	+186

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 118.3 *-0.1* 22.6.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.33	2 years	2705	6.40	101.20	5.80
1 month	5.44	3 years	3804	6.90	102.25	6.11
3 months	5.47	5 years	5006	6.60	99.81	6.76
6 months	5.50	5 years	M501	7.90	103.26	7.23
12 months	5.58					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$9,478 million

Closed June 22, 1995

End/Thursday, June 22, 1995