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## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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JLG Budget expert group to meet tomorrow

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The Sino-British Joint Liaison Group will hold their eighteenth round of Expert Talks on February 13 in Hong Kong to discuss the preparation of Hong Kong's transitional Budget and related matters.

The British team will be led by Mr K C Kwong, Secretary for the Treasury of the Hong Kong Government. The Chinese team will be led by Mr Chen Zuo'er, Chinese Representative on the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group. They will be assisted by experts.

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Working Group set up to study registration of ADP in HK

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A Working Group has been set up under the Dental Sub-Committee of the Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee (HMDAC) to study matters relating to the registration of Ancillary Dental Personnel (ADP) in Hong Kong.

The ADP includes dental therapists, dental hygienists, dental technicians and dental surgery assistants.

A report of the Dental Sub-Committee published in 1991 recommended that a statutory registration for ancillary dental personnel be introduced.

The Working Group would now review the 1991 report, the roles and practices of the ancillary dental personnel, and advise on implementation approach of the registration issue as well as on the education and training of ADP, a spokesman for the HMDAC's Dental Sub-committee said.

In carrying out this job, the Working Group would take into consideration overseas experience and international practices, the suitability of a registration system in Hong Kong and concerns of both ADP and dentists on the system, he added.

Professor Peter Yuen Pok-man has been appointed by the Dental Sub-Committee to be the chairman of the Working Group. Being a prominent member of the academic field, Professor Yuen has wide experiences in advising various committees and councils on health and medical development matters.

He stressed that the input solicited from all parties concerned would be carefully synthesised.

Members of the Working Group will comprise nominees from the ADP categories in both the private and public sectors, one representative each from the dental profession, the Dental Faculty and the Department of Health and two lay members.

The first meeting of the Working Group will be held in February. The Working Group is expected to complete its report and recommendations by the second half of this year.

Any persons or parties who wish to express their views on the matter may send in their submissions to the Secretariat, Working Group on the Registration of Ancillary Dental Personnel, Room 35, 21 st Floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong or by fax to 2575 8944.

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#### Statistics on trade involving outward processing in China

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In the third quarter of 1996, 52% of Hong Kong's total exports to China were for outward processing; the figure was 75% for domestic exports, and 49% for re-exports.

On the other hand, 79% of Hong Kong's imports from China were related to outward processing, according to statistics released today (Wednesday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Over the same period, 86% of Hong Kong's re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China were produced through outward processing in China.

The corresponding proportions in the third quarter of 1995 were 49% for total exports to China, 75% for domestic exports to China, 45% for re-exports to China, 76% for imports from China and 80% for re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China.

In January - September 1996, 48% of Hong Kong's total exports to China were for outward processing; the figure was 73% for domestic exports, and 45% for re-exports. On the other hand, 80% of Hong Kong's imports from China were related to outward processing.

Over the same period, 86% of Hong Kong's re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China were produced through outward processing in China.

The corresponding proportions in January - September of 1995 were 49% for total exports to China, 71% for domestic exports to China, 45% for re-exports to China, 75% for imports from China and 82% for re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China.

To provide a better understanding of the nature and importance of outward processing in China initiated by Hong Kong firms, the Census & Statistics Department has been conducting a sample survey as from the third quarter of 1988 to distinguish Hong Kong's exports to China into those which are for outward processing and those which are not.

The scope of the survey has been extended to cover Hong Kong's imports from China and Hong Kong's re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China as from 1989 and 1991 respectively.

The results for the third quarter and January - September 1996 are now available.

In value terms, \$62,122 million of Hong Kong's total exports to China in the third quarter of 1996 were for outward processing, representing an increase of 11% over the third quarter of 1995. The value of domestic exports to China for outward processing decreased by 6% to \$11,528 million whilst the value of re-exports to China for outward processing grew by 15% to \$50,594 million.

Over the same period of comparison, the value of imports from China related to outward processing increased by 11% to \$126,749 million. On the other hand, \$163,124 million of Hong Kong's re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China were produced through outward processing in China, representing an increase of 18%.

In January - September of 1996, \$165,809 million of Hong Kong's total exports to China were for outward processing, representing an increase of 3% over January - September of 1995. The value of domestic exports to China for outward processing decreased by 5% to \$31,293 million while that for re-exports to China for outward processing grew by 5% to \$134,516 million.

Over the same period of comparison, the value of imports from China related to outward processing increased by 13% to \$336,384 million. On the other hand, \$410,904 million of Hong Kong's re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China were produced through outward processing in China, representing an increase of 14%.

For the purpose of the survey, exports to China for outward processing refer to raw materials or semi-manufactures exported from or through Hong Kong to China for processing with a contractual arrangement for subsequent re-importation of the processed goods into Hong Kong.

Imports from China related to outward processing refer to processed goods imported from China of which all or part of the raw materials or semi-manufactures have been under contractual arrangement exported from or through Hong Kong to China for processing.

Re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China involving outward processing in China refer to processed goods re-exported through Hong Kong, of which all or part of the raw materials or semi-manufactures have been exported from or through Hong Kong to China for processing with a contractual arrangement for subsequent re-importation of the processed goods into Hong Kong.

In interpreting the statistics, it should be noted that the value and proportion of imports from China and re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China involving outward processing in China refer to those of the entire goods instead of just the value added contributed by outward processing in China.

A sample of trade declarations in respect of Hong Kong's trade with China (domestic exports and re-exports to China, and imports from China) as well as Hong Kong's re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China is selected for enumeration to obtain the required information from the establishments concerned.

A spokesman for the Census and Statistics Department explained that under the internationally accepted system of recording trade flows, all movements of goods (except transshipments and goods-in-transit) across the border, whether for outward processing or not, are recorded as external trade. Thus the movements of goods associated with outward processing are correctly included in the regular trade statistics.

The findings of the survey, however, facilitate a more informed analysis of the nature of Hong Kong-China trade. In this respect, the survey results are a useful supplement to the regular trade statistics.

The above survey results will be included in the December 1996 issue of the "Hong Kong External Trade". This report will be on sale by the end of February 1997 at the Government Publications Sales Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, Ground Floor, 66 Queensway, and at the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai at \$129 a copy.

Enquiries on the survey results may be directed to the Trade Surveys and Research Section of the Census and Statistics Department on telephone 2565 7540.

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The estimates for the third quarter and January - September of 1996 and the corresponding changes over the same period in 1995 are summarised in the following table:-

ESTIMATED VALUE AND PROPORTION OF TRADE INVOLVING OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA, 3RD QUARTER AND JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 1996

	3rd qtr. <u>1996</u> (HKD Mn.)	Percentage change over 3rd qtr. <u>1995</u> (%)	Jan. - Sep. <u>1996</u> (HKD Mn.)	Percentage change over Jan. - Sep. <u>1995</u> (%)
<u>Total trade value * :</u>				
Total exports to China	119,552	+ 4.6	344,994	+ 5.3
Domestic exports to China	15,397	- 6.3	43,115	- 6.4
Re-exports to China	104,155	+ 6.4	301,879	+ 7.2
Imports from China	160,216	+ 6.5	419,444	+ 5.3
Re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China	189,070	+ 9.3	478,710	+ 8.2
<u>Estimated value involving outward processing in China :</u>				
Total exports to China	62,122	+10.6	165,809	+ 3.3
Domestic exports to China	11,528	- 5.8	31,293	- 4.5
Re-exports to China	50,594	+15.2	134,516	+ 5.2
Imports from China	126,749	+11.4	336,384	+12.8
Re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China	163,124	+17.7	410,904	+13.5
<u>Estimated proportion involving outward processing in China :</u>				
	3rd qtr. <u>1996</u> (%)	3rd qtr. <u>1995</u> (%)	Jan. - Sep. <u>1996</u> (%)	Jan. - Sep. <u>1995</u> (%)
Total exports to China	52.0	49.1	48.1	49.0
Domestic exports to China	74.9	74.5	72.6	71.2
Re-exports to China	48.6	44.9	44.6	45.4
Imports from China	79.1	75.6	80.2	74.9
Re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China	86.3	80.1	85.8	81.8

\* The value excludes commodities and transactions not classified according to kind.

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Subvention for adult education courses

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Registered non-profit-making voluntary organisations are invited to apply for government subvention to run adult education courses for the 1997/98 school year.

"These courses will complement and supplement the government's activities in the field of adult education," Senior Education Officer, Miss Y H Wong, said today (Wednesday).

"Areas eligible for subvention include basic Chinese literacy courses; general education for particular groups, such as factory workers and fishermen; social and moral education; labour education; pre-vocational training; special education for the physically or mentally handicapped adults; careers education; and pre-retirement/retirement education; and job-oriented courses.

"Other courses to be subvented are re-orientation and Cantonese courses for newcomers to Hong Kong from other parts of Asia; adult education courses conducted on an experimental basis; and courses in geographical areas not covered by the Education Department's services," she added.

The subvention will cover mainly cost of staffing, basic teaching and office equipment, charges and rent.

Application forms, available at the Education Department's Adult Education Section, 11th floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, should be returned by April 30.

Applicants will be informed of the results in August.

For further enquiries, please contact the section at 2892 6671.

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