



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
GARDEN ROAD, 5th-8th FLOORS, MURRAY BUILDING,
HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Wednesday, January 1, 1997

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New appointments to APA Council

The Governor has appointed Mrs Anna Pao Sohmen Chairman and Mr Stanley Pong Kit Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts.

In addition, Mr Eddy Fong Ching has been appointed Treasurer. Four new members, Ms Mona Fong, Mr Richard Li Tzar-kai, Mr Benjamin Rodger Sumner and Mrs Too So Kwok-chun, will join the Council and 10 serving members have been re-appointed.

All appointments are for two years with effect from today (Wednesday).

The following is a full list of members of the Council:

Mrs Anna Pao Sohmen (Chairman)
Mr Stanley Pong Kit (Deputy Chairman)
Mr Eddy Fong Ching (Treasurer)
Mr Clarence Chang Ching-po
Mr Vincent Chow Wing-shing
Mr David G Eldon
Ms Mona Fong
Dr Lam Tai-hing
Mr Richard Li Tzar-kai
Mr Raymond K P Liu
Mr Lo King-man (ex-officio as Director of the Academy)
Mr Fedric Mao Chun-fai (elected staff representative)
Mr Benjamin Rodger Sumner (elected staff representative)
Mr Peter James Thompson
Mrs Too So Kwok-chun
Mr Philip Tse Wan-chung
Secretary for Broadcasting, Culture and Sport
Deputy Director of Education

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Periodic test of electrical installations compulsory

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The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) today (Wednesday) reminded the public that all fixed electrical installations which were already in use before June 1, 1992 should be inspected before June 1 this year.

"There are about 42,000 in total of such installations in the territory," said a spokesman for the department.

Under the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations which took effect on June 1, 1992, property owners, incorporated owners, estate management agents, occupiers and tenants must have the electrical installations in their buildings inspected, tested and certified by a registered electrical contractor at least once every five years.

"This means that if the installations were connected to electricity supply before June 1, 1992, the first test should take place before June 1, 1997," the spokesman said.

"This applies to all fixed electrical installations in factories with an approved loading exceeding 200A, and those in commercial and private buildings with an approved loading exceeding 100A, hotels, hospitals, schools and child care centres," he explained.

The spokesman stressed that the requirements were aimed at reducing safety hazards such as fire and electrical accidents caused by improper maintenance of electrical installations.

He urged the public to arrange for the test immediately for their own safety. In doing so, the last minute rush for completing the test before the deadline could be avoided.

"Failure to comply with the regulations is liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000," he said.

The spokesman added that EMSD would launch a publicity campaign from tomorrow (Thursday) to promote public awareness of the periodic test and the deadline.

"Publicity activities include broadcasting the message on radio and television, advertisements in Mass Transit Railway stations and newspapers, and the publication of a newsletter for distribution to the public.

"Seminars on the periodic test will also be organised for office-bearers of owners corporations, mutual aid committees and resident groups," he said.

Copies of an information leaflet on the periodic test requirements are available at all district offices and the Customer Liaison Office of EMSD.

For more information, please telephone 2882 8011 or write to EMSD's Electricity Legislation Division, 98 Caroline Hill Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.

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Deadline of BN(O) Registration Programme Phase XI

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A Government spokesman today (Wednesday) reminded the public that the final date for Hong Kong British Dependent Territories citizens (BDTCs) born in 1996 to apply for British National (Overseas) BN(O) passports will be March 31, 1997.

Hong Kong BDTCs (such as persons born, naturalised or registered in Hong Kong) must obtain a BN(O) passport if they wish to continue to travel on British passports beyond 1997.

As specified in the Second Schedule to the Hong Kong (British Nationality) Order 1986, applications for BN(O) passports must be submitted on or before the final dates relevant to their age groups.

Parents or legal guardians of eligible children born in 1996 must submit their applications on or before March 31, 1997. They should apply for a Hong Kong permanent identity card on behalf of the children at the same time. To avoid a last minute rush, they are advised to apply early.

Hong Kong BDTCs living abroad are also required to observe the cut-off dates if they want to apply for a BN(O) passport. However, they are not required to return to Hong Kong for their applications. They should submit their applications to the nearest British passport issuing office either by post or in person. The required overseas application forms can be obtained at those offices or the Hong Kong Immigration Department.

Persons who do not comply with the relevant cut-off dates will not be able to travel on British passports beyond 1997. An application made after the final date will only be accepted if the applicant can show that there are special circumstances which justify his late application.

A BN(O) Late Registration Appeals Advisory Committee has been established to advise the Governor on those late applications which have been rejected by the Immigration Department.

The spokesman emphasised that those who already had a BN(O) passport, either the conventional hard-cover type or the burgundy red machine readable type, need not apply again.

To save time in queuing up at Immigration Offices, eligible applicants should send in their applications by post or make use of the drop-in box service. Drop-in boxes are installed at the Immigration Headquarters and branch offices throughout the territory. Only persons who have lost their previous passports or who need the passport for urgent travel should apply in person.

Further information can be obtained by telephoning 2824 1177 (English) or 2824 1717 (Chinese).

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Heritage Year logo selected

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A creative design has been selected from among 402 entries in a competition to be the logo for the Year of the Heritage in 1997.

The winning entry in the Public Section is designed by Miss Au Kit-ye. Illustrated in a lively style with brushstroke in bright green and orange, the logo is inspired by the image of historical artefact. It also contains a red heart which symbolises people's care and concern for the protection of the heritage in Hong Kong.

The logo will be used in all publicity material of the Year of Heritage to be jointly organised by the Antiquities and Monuments Office of the Broadcasting, Culture and Sport Branch, the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) and the Lord Heritage Trust.

Miss Au will be awarded \$10,000 while the winner of the Student Section, Mr Fan Chi-ho, will receive \$4,000. There are also four merit prizes in the Public Section (\$2,000 each) and 10 merit prizes in the Student Section (\$1,000 each).

Prizes and certificates will be awarded to all winners at the grand opening ceremony of the Year of Heritage at Chater Garden, Central, on February 21, 1997.

Adjudicators of the logo design competition were Chairman of the AAB, Professor David Lung; Chairperson of the Education and Publicity Committee of the AAB, Ms Jane Cheung; Board Member, Mr Poon Huen-wai; and Principal Assistant Secretary for Broadcasting, Culture and Sport, Mr Raymond Tam.

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Yau Tong government lot to let

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The Lands Department is inviting tenders for the short-term tenancy of a piece of government land at Tung Yuen Street, Yau Tong, Kowloon.

The lot is divided into three sections and has a total area of about 9,270 square metres. The tenancy is for one year, renewable quarterly.

Site A shall be used for cargo handling and storage of non-dangerous goods (including storage, loading and unloading of cement, sand and aggregate but excluding concrete/asphalt production) while site B and C shall be used for parking of vehicles.

The tender offer will close at noon on January 17 (Friday).

Tender forms, tender notices and conditions can be obtained from the Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong, and the District Lands Offices of Kowloon.

Tender plans can also be inspected at these offices.

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