



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Saturday, November 18, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Creation of IPCC welcomed by Committee Against Torture	1
Work-based child care services to needy parents	2
Seminar on open employment for the disabled	3
Basic Law TV programmes to be screened	4
Firing practice in December	5
Fresh water cut in Sai Kung	6
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	6

Sunday, November 19, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
FS impressed by APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting	7
Fire safety in commercial premises	8
Central & Western District Festival launched	9

Creation of IPCC welcomed by Committee Against Torture

* * * * *

The creation of the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) in Hong Kong has been regarded as a positive aspect by the United Nations Committee Against Torture after its hearing on the territory's initial report under the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Degrading or Inhuman Treatment or Punishment.

Welcoming the Committee's observation in this aspect, leader of the Hong Kong team attending the hearing, Principal Crown Counsel, Mr Stephen Wong, said today (Friday, Geneva time) the dialogue was open and cordial.

He said the Committee appeared to have acknowledged the efforts made and difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Convention in Hong Kong.

Mr Wong also stressed the independence of the IPCC and new measures introduced or planned to be introduced in the territory's police complaint system.

Meanwhile, the Committee also expressed concern over the standard of detention of Vietnamese Migrants (VM) in the territory.

In response to a question on VMs raised by a Committee member, Mr Wong said the Hong Kong Government had no wish of detaining the VMs at all.

He pointed out that the Hong Kong Government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have been counselling them to return to Vietnam voluntarily.

"Both the Hong Kong Government and the UNHCR have been trying to make the living conditions in the camps as amicable as possible within the resources available," he added.

As to the question on whether Hong Kong's laws on arrest and detention follow the practice of the United Kingdom, Mr Wong said the criminal justice systems of the UK and Hong Kong were not quite the same.

"We have to assess the impact very carefully before accepting certain recommendations of the Law Reform Commission (LRC) Report to ensure that the ability of our law enforcement agencies to fight crime is not impaired," Mr Wong said.

He also said the working group set up to consider the LRC recommendations hoped to be able to complete its work at the end of this year or early next year.

On a question concerning a large number of withdrawn complaint cases against the police, Mr Wong said studies had revealed that a substantial number of complainants of minor complaints might have lodged complaints on impulse.

"Some complainants involved in criminal proceedings might have tactically lodged their complaints to play up their defence in court," he added.

In conclusion, the Committee also thanked the delegation for presenting a comprehensive report well supported by appendix materials and the delegation's full and open dialogue with the Committee.

End/Saturday, November 18, 1995

Work-based child care services to needy parents

* * * * *

The Government has made every endeavour to provide child care services to meet the needs of parents, the Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan, said today (Saturday).

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong Bank Child Care Centre (Whampoa Garden), Mr Strachan said the Government had pledged a target of expanding day nursery service by increasing 1,400 places each year from 1992-93 onwards until the demand was fully met.

He said the Government had also encouraged the expansion of work-based child care centres as a form of staff welfare to be provided by employers.

"Work-based child care centres are day care facilities sponsored by employers for the young children, aged six or below, of their employees.

"As an employment benefit it enables more members of the female population to take up employment," Mr Strachan said, adding that it helped employers to retain their staff and also improved labour relations and work efficiency.

Noting that this form of child care facility had been very popular in some industrialised societies, Mr Strachan said the first work-based child care centre in Hong Kong was set up in October 1990 by the Hong Kong Bank at the Network Services Centre in Cheung Sha Wan and is managed by the Hong Kong Christian Service.

"Based on the very positive experience in operating the first work-based child care centre, the Hong Kong Bank is now setting up this second centre.

"This centre is custom-made to suit the needs of the staff of the Bank, with longer operating hours so that parents can work in the Bank while their children are left in the good hands of the child care staff in the centre," he said.

The Hong Kong Bank Child Care Centre (Whampoa Garden) opened today, which was the third of its kind in the territory, provides 42 places for children aged under six.

End/Saturday, November 18, 1995

Seminar on open employment for the disabled

* * * * *

The Selective Placement Division (SPD) of the Labour Department will organise a seminar on open employment for people with a disability on Thursday (November 23).

The seminar aims at promoting employers' awareness of the employment needs of the disabled through better understanding of their working abilities.

The programme will include panel discussions, work demonstrations by the disabled, a video show and an exhibition.

Participating employers can offer vacancies on the spot and select suitable job seekers from the SPD's registrants for interviews later.

A similar seminar held last year received favourable response from over 300 chief executives, human resource managers and rehabilitation professionals.

This year's seminar will be held at Room 601, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wan Chai between 2 pm and 5 pm.

Other organisers of the seminar include the Employment Sub-Committee of Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, Joint Council for the Physically and Mentally Disabled (Rehabilitation Division, Hong Kong Council of Social Service), seven major employers' associations and two personnel managers' associations in Hong Kong.

Enrolment can be made by phone on 2852 4803 or by fax 2542 4823.

End/Saturday, November 18, 1995

Basic Law TV programmes to be screened

* * * * *

A series of television programmes entitled "Know More About Basic Law" will be screened from Monday (November 20).

Officiating at a ceremony at Victoria Park today (Saturday) to mark the beginning of the screening of the programmes, the Chairman of the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education, Mr Moses Cheng, said the programmes were aimed at enhancing public understanding of the Basic Law through the electronic media.

"The different sections of the Basic Law, such as those on the political system, elections, economy, finance, and education, are closely related to the daily life of members of the public.

"To further elaborate on the topics, the TV programmes will feature interviews with law experts and short dramas," Mr Cheng added.

Co-produced by the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education and Asia Television Limited, the programmes will be broadcast on ATV-Home channel every weekday from November this year to February next year.

Each of the 65 three-minute episodes will be broadcast thrice daily at 9.15 am, 5.35 pm and 1.45 am.

Mr Cheng also thanked ATV staff and Committee members for turning a civic education attempt into informative and interesting television programmes.

Renowned commentator, Mr Lee Kam-hung, will act as the host of the programmes.

End/Saturday, November 18, 1995

Firing practice in December

* * * * *

Firing practice will take place at the Ha Tsuen/Castle Peak Range on eight days next month (December). The public is advised not to enter the area when red flags are hoisted.

Following are the dates and times for the firing practice:

Date	Time
-----	-----
December 4 (Monday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
December 11 (Monday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
December 12 (Tuesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
December 13 (Wednesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
December 14 (Thursday)	8.30 am - 11 pm
December 15 (Friday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
December 16 (Saturday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
December 21 (Thursday)	8.30 am - 5 pm

End/Saturday, November 18, 1995

Fresh water cut in Sai Kung

Fresh water supply to some premises in Clear Water Bay area, Sai Kung will be temporarily suspended from 10 pm on Tuesday (November 21) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water mains works.

The suspension will affect all villages on Clearwater Bay Road between Silverstrand Beach Road and Tai Au Mun, including Silverstrand Beach Road, Mang Kung Uk, Hang Hau Wing Lung Road, Ng Fai Tin, Pan Long Wan, Sheung Yeung, Ha Yeung, Miu Tsai, Leung Fai Tin, Siu Hang Hau, Tai Hang Hau, Seung Sz Wan, Lung Ha Wan Road, Mau Po, Tai O Mun, Tsiu Wo, Tai Wan Tau, Tai O Mun Road, Sheung Lau Wan, Tin Wan Tsai, Tin Ha, Tai Wong Kung, Po Toi O, Tai Miu Au and Clear Water Bay Golf and Country Club.

End/Saturday, November 18, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ Million	Time (Hours)	Cumulative Change (\$ Million)
	-----	-----	-----
Opening Balance in the account	1,466	09:30	Nil
Closing Balance in the account	1,221	10:00	Nil
Change Attributable to:		11:00	Nil
Money Market Activity	Nil	11:30	Nil
Laf Today	-245		

Laf Rate 4.25% Bid/6.25% Offer TWI 122.3 *+0.1* 18.11.95

End/Saturday, November 18, 1995

FS impressed by APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting

* * * * *

The Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, said today (Sunday) after the Economic Leaders' Meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum that he was enormously impressed by the forward-looking approach taken by the Meeting.

"Leaders readily adopted the Action Agenda, and then went on to share ideas on the way forward and exchange views on issues of common concern," Mr Tsang said.

"They also congratulated Japan, as Chair of this year's APEC, on its determined and thorough management of the process.

"Individual Leaders had also outlined the problems they faced in reforming their economies. Clearly, each economy faces different problems in the process of liberalisation and deregulation. I was impressed by their readiness to share their concerns and to look for common solutions.

"The strength of APEC lies in both this diversity and this sense of solidarity in working towards a common goal," he added.

Referring to the Action Agenda, Mr Tsang described it as a remarkable achievement.

"This meeting actually took APEC to a new plateau. I am very confident that in the years to come APEC is going to be the best forum and the focus of economic activities in this part of the world.

"APEC is such a young organisation, and this is only the third Economic Leaders' Meeting. It is remarkable for it to have achieved so much within such a short period of time. So we should watch out for the detailed Action Plans that each economy is going to bring to Subic next year."

In response to questions about what Hong Kong had to offer in its package of initial actions, Mr Tsang said Hong Kong had indeed almost reached the final goal of trade liberalisation.

"Our tariffs are de facto at zero. So what we are doing is to bind ourselves legally to remaining free in future."

End/Sunday, November 19, 1995

Fire safety in commercial premises

* * * * *

Fire safety in commercial premises demands greater attention as these premises are rendezvous of business activities and with throngs of people gathering there, the Director of Fire Services, Mr Peter Cheung, said today (Sunday).

Speaking at the launching of the 1995-96 Fire Prevention Campaign, Mr Cheung pointed out that if fires broke out in commercial premises, the safety of many people would be at risk.

Last year, fires in commercial premises killed 17 people and injured 127.

Mr Cheung said: "If everyone of us takes seriously the prevention of fires which are often caused by our carelessness, fires can be avoided."

The campaign this year takes on a special theme - "Fire Prevention in Commercial Premises".

Mr Cheung said the Fire Services Department had produced a set of video and pamphlets on the theme for distribution to major business organisations to enhance public awareness of fire prevention in commercial premises.

At the ceremony, Mr Cheung also presented copies of the video production to representatives from the Hong Kong Association of Banks, the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, the Hong Kong and Kowloon General Merchandise Association and the Housing Department.

In addition to the distribution of the publicity materials, the department will organise a series of open days in fire stations and radio programmes to publicise fire safety messages.

Mr Cheung thanked the Kwong On Bank for their continuous sponsorship of the campaign.

End/Sunday, November 19, 1995

Central & Western District Festival launched

* * * * *

The Fifth Central and Western District Festival, one of the most ambitious district-level community involvement programmes aimed at promoting civic education, the arts and sports and recreational activities, was launched today (Sunday).

Speaking at the launching ceremony at Hong Kong Park, the Director of Home Affairs, Mrs Shelley Lau, hoped that the month-long festival, consisting of more than 30 activities, would cultivate a stronger sense of belonging among residents and people who work in the district.

Noting that the district has many historical landmarks and world famous shopping facilities, Mrs Lau appealed to people in the district to be supportive of the major engineering projects now under way that would have a positive effect to the area, including the Western Harbour Crossing and the Central Reclamation.

She assured residents that these projects would help improve traffic in the district and maintain Hong Kong's reputation as an international financial centre and that they would also benefit from an improved standard of living.

Festival activities concerning civic education include a Girl Guides Day Camp to promote civic knowledge and active participation in community service, a Disable Employment Seminar to encourage the hiring of people with a disability and analyse their work potential, and a photographic competition to capture the special characteristics of the district.

As the festival aims to cater to residents in any physical condition and of all age groups, an elderly carnival will be staged, featuring lion dance, kung fu performance and Chinese opera. This is in addition to a Senior Citizens Carnival to acknowledge the elderly's contributions to the community and a Senior Citizens Card Privilege Month in December when the aged will be offered concessionary rates in the purchase of certain goods and services offered by participating organisations.

For those on the other end of the age scale, the Unplug Youth Concert with its roving exhibition and games will be staged for them at five locations.

Residents with a most traditional cultural taste will also have the option of going to a Chiu Chow Opera and those afflicted with the performing bug can test their talents at a singing contest.

A number of related activities will also be held, including a Karaoke Singing Contest and a Youth Concert, the latter to involve students from eight schools.

The more athletic type can flex their muscles at a Sports and Recreation Festival where game stalls would allow ample opportunity for visitors to test their skills. Professional athletes have been invited to demonstrate various sports, including badminton, table tennis and Chinese shuttlecock.

The District Festival is a triennial event which began in 1983. Through a wide variety of cultural, educational and entertainment programmes, the Festival aims at promoting community involvement and cultivating a sense of belonging among residents.

The Fifth Central and Western District Festival has cost \$1.5 million to organise, \$600,000 of which has been funded by the Central and Western District Board and \$160,000 by the Urban Council, with the rest covered by local donations.

It is organised by the District Festival Organising Committee which comprises mainly District Board members, Area Committee members and local dignitaries. The Central and Western District Office and the Urban Council are also co-organisers of the Festival.

Thanking the support of local businessmen for their generous contributions, the Chairman of the Organising Committee, Mr Wu Chor-nam, said: "The prosperity of the Central and Western district reflects the success of Hong Kong as a whole. The Festival would also provide an opportunity for people in other parts of Hong Kong to get to know our district better."

End/Sunday, November 19, 1995