



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Government welcomes ROVR scheme

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The Government today (Monday) welcomed the announcement by the US Administration on the Resettlement Opportunity for Vietnamese Returnees (ROVR) scheme for Vietnamese migrants (VMs) returning to Vietnam from Hong Kong. A Government spokesman said: "We welcome this initiative and are co-operating closely with the US Consulate-General in putting in place the necessary logistical arrangements in the camps.

"We hope that as a consequence of ROVR, more VMs will apply for voluntary repatriation and we shall see a sizeable increase in the numbers returning to Vietnam," he said.

The spokesman pointed out that the Government understood that there would be no further US initiatives providing for the resettlement in the US of the non-refugees in the camps.

He appealed to all VMs to seize the opportunity presented by ROVR and to apply for voluntary repatriation as soon as possible.

"The international community, through the Comprehensive Plan of Action, has decreed that the only viable option for the VMs is return to Vietnam," the spokesman stressed.

End

Public consultation on quality school education

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A Task Group has been set up under the Education Commission (EC) to study the issue of quality school education and a consultation pamphlet will be issued in June to solicit public views on relevant broad principles, Chairman of the Education Commission (EC), Professor Rosie Young, said today (Monday).

Speaking to reporters after an EC meeting, Professor Young said that the views collated would help the Commission's Task Group in finalising their proposals which would form the basis of a draft EC Report No.7 (ECR7). "Further consultation will be conducted later in the year on the draft ECR7 which will recommend more concrete proposals relating to school quality and school funding," she said.

During its meeting today, the Commission noted the progress made on the implementation of major recommendations of the Education Commission Report No. 6.

"We are pleased with the swift manner in which the Administration implements the recommendations," Professor Young said.

"Actions are being taken to set up the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research (SCOLAR) and its Support Unit; to promote Putonghua and to recruit native-speaking English teachers for secondary schools.

"Applications have also been made to the Language Fund for the employment of two professionals to support the work of SCOLAR, the introduction of intensive English courses for Secondary 6 and Secondary 7 students in English-medium schools, the setting up of a Task Force to develop extensive reading and writing schemes, the review of teachers' workload and the establishment of a Language Resource Centre," she said.

Members also noted in today's meeting the general progress of the Working Group on General Teaching Council.

End

TELA launches biennial film classification survey

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The Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA) is conducting a large scale opinion survey to gauge public views on the current film classification system and the standard adopted by film censors in classifying different categories of films.

A professional company has been appointed to carry out the survey, starting today (Monday) until June 6.

"It will involve 540 members of the public of different age and sex reflecting the demographic characteristics of our community as well as some 280 public advisers on film censorship appointed by TELA," a spokesman for TELA said.

TELA conducts similar survey every two years. The last survey which was completed in 1994, showed that the public supported the 3-tier film classification system and generally considered the standards appropriate. They also suggested refinement to Category II film classification and the censorship of posters of Category III films which have since been introduced through an amendment to the Film Censorship Ordinance, effective November 1995.

The spokesman noted that out of the 713 films censored between November 1995 and March this year, 142 were classified as IIA and 156 as IIB films.

"The current survey will seek respondents' views on the revised Category II classifications, as well as the effectiveness of the new requirement for censorship of advertising material for Category III films," he said.

"Results of the survey will be known by the end of July and it is hoped that they will provide useful reference to us in our continuous effort to ensure that film censorship standards reflect fully the views of the public," the spokesman added.

End

New leaflet on education for Chinese immigrant children

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Chinese immigrant children on arrival at the Lowu checkpoint will now receive a new Education Department leaflet in simplified Chinese characters which outlines their education opportunities in Hong Kong.

The leaflet has been distributed to entry checkpoints at Lo Wu and China Ferry Terminal, and to the Immigration Department's Registration of Persons Kowloon Office at Empire Centre, where Chinese immigrants obtain their Hong Kong identity documents.

The leaflet is also available at district offices and district education offices.

The Assistant Director of Education, Mr David Pun, said the leaflet asked the parents of Chinese immigrant children to fill in particulars about their school-age children. The completed part of the leaflet can then be cut out and folded into a prepaid envelope, which will be sent back to the Education Department.

"The department on receipt of the reply envelope will take the initiative to contact the parents concerned and offer assistance with education services, including placement of their children in Hong Kong schools," Mr Pun said.

"The move represents the department's effort to improve services for Chinese immigrant children."

The leaflet outlines the school education framework in Hong Kong, including the nine-year free compulsory education system and special and adult education services. There is also information on the department's induction and English extension courses for newly arrived Chinese immigrant children.

The addresses and phone numbers of 19 district education offices, where new immigrants can obtain assistance, are also given.

Mr Pun added that there will be radio publicity in Cantonese and Putonghua on education services for Chinese immigrant children.

END

Advanced course for Putonghua teachers

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Sixty teachers will attend an advanced course of Putonghua in Beijing this summer to further their studies in the subject and strengthen their confidence in teaching.

The Chinese and Chinese History Section of the Advisory Inspectorate, Education Department, will organise a four-week advanced course in Putonghua from July 20 to August 17 (tentative). The course will be conducted by the Chinese Common Speech Centre for Education and Examination of the State Language Committee.

After completing the course, participants have to attend an examination. Certificates will be awarded to those who have passed the examination.

Each participants will need to pay US\$940 for the course with the remaining expenses of US\$400 to be borne by the Language Fund.

The course is offered to Putonghua teachers in government, aided, caput secondary schools, all schools under the English Schools Foundation and special schools with a secondary section offering Putonghua within school hours.

Nominations should be made by school heads for submission to the Chinese and Chinese History Section, Advisory Inspectorate, Education Department by the end of this month.

For enquiries, please call 2892 6477 or 2892 6538.

End

Conduct Council election to be held on Wednesday

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Teachers will vote on Wednesday (April 24) to elect members of the Council on Professional Conduct in Education for another two-year term.

The Education Department appealed to all full-time registered and permitted teachers, including school heads, regular and temporary teachers employed on a monthly basis, to take part in the election.

The election will be held in individual schools under guidelines issued by the Education Department.

Arrangements have also been made for teachers attending day-time courses run by the Hong Kong Institute of Education. They may cast their votes at the polling stations set up in various campuses of the Institute. To avoid double voting, they are not allowed to vote in their own schools.

Assistant Director of Education (Services), Mr David Pun, called on teachers to exercise their right in electing candidates to represent them in the council, which is aimed at promoting the interest of teaching profession. Teachers who are eligible to vote are reminded to study the instructions on the ballot papers before casting their votes.

Mr Pun said: "Voters should not put down their names or any other marks of identification on the ballot papers. Otherwise, the vote will be considered void."

Secondary school voters can choose candidates from any or both aided and private schools. They may each vote for a maximum of four candidates, three from aided schools and one from private schools.

Primary school teachers should vote for candidates from aided schools only. They may each vote for a maximum of three candidates.

Kindergarten voters should choose one candidate only while those of special school may each vote for a maximum of two candidates.

Teachers, however, are reminded not to choose more than the number of candidates as specified in the category. When this happens, the vote will be counted as invalid.

Mr Pun pointed out that candidates in any of the category would be elected not only by a majority vote, but also by the minimum number of votes.

In other words, candidates must receive at least 500 votes in secondary or primary schools, 300 in kindergartens and 200 in special schools in order to be elected.

"Teachers should not miss this opportunity to elect their representatives," Mr Pun repeated.

The Council on Professional Conduct in Education is a non-statutory body to advise the Government on measures to promote professional conduct in education, including the drafting of operation criteria defining the conduct expected of an educator, and to advise the Director of Education in cases of disputes or on alleged professional misconduct.

The council has 28 seats -- 14 in the teacher-nominated categories, 11 in the organisation-nominated categories and three, including the Assistant Director of Education (Services) and two lay members, to be appointed by the Director of Education.

The Education Department has received a total of 35 nominations. Among them, 17 will run for seats in the teacher-nominated categories and 18 for seats in the organisation nominated categories.

Results of the election will be announced as soon as they are available.

End

List of environmental reports released

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The Environmental Protection Department today (Monday) released a list of environmental impact assessment (EIA) reports of major development projects completed between January and March this year as well as those which will be completed in the coming 12 months.

A complete list of all ongoing EIAs is available for public inspection at the Environmental Resource Centre at 221, Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Following is a list of major EIA reports completed between January and March 1996 :

1. Backfilling of Marine Borrow Pits in North of Lantau and South Tsing Yi
(Civil Engineering Department)
2. Discovery Bay Development Master Plan 6.0 (A)
(Hong Kong Resort Co. Ltd.)
3. Initial EIA for North Lantau Refuse Transfer Station
(Environmental Protection Department)
4. Kam Tin Bypass
(Highways Department)

5. Tseung Kwan O Development Improvement to Ying Yip Road and J/O Hang Hau Road / Clearwater Bay Road
(Territory Development Department)
6. Reclamation Works for District Open Space and Government / Institute / Community Facilities in North Tsing Yi
(Civil Engineering Department)

Major EIAs that are likely to be completed in the next 12 months include:

1. Green Island Cement Manufacturing and Concrete Batching Area 17, Southwest Tsing Yi
(Green Island Cement Co. Ltd.)
2. Main Drainage Channel for Fanling, Sheung Shui and Hinterland
(Civil Engineering Department)
3. Main Drainage Channel for Ngau Tam Mei, Yuen Long and Kam Tin
(Territory Development Department)
4. Route 16 : From West Kowloon to Shatin
(Highways Department)
5. Sham Tseng Link Feasibility Study
(Highways Department)
6. Sand Extraction and Backfilling of Eastern Waters Marine Borrow Areas
(Civil Engineering Department)
7. Central Reclamation, Phase III
(Territory Development Department)
8. Sha Lo Tung Revised Development Supplementary EIA
(Sha Lo Tung Development Co., Ltd)
9. Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme Stage I, Implementation Stage EIA
(Drainage Services Department)
10. KCR Western Corridor Railway
11. MTR Tseung Kwan O & Quarry Bay Extensions
(Mass Transit Railway Corporation)
12. KCR Hung Hom Extension cum Ma On Sha Rail Link
(Highways Department)

13. Aviation Fuel Pipeline
(Airport Authority)
14. Central / Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link
(Highways Department)
15. Supplementary EIA for dredging of Anchorage Area for Stonecutters Island
Naval Base
(Civil Engineering Department)
16. Backfilling of Marine Borrow Area at East Tung Lung Chau
(Civil Engineering Department)
17. Wan Chai East and North Point Sewerage
(Drainage Services Department)
18. Tsuen Wan Bay Further Reclamation
(Territory Development Department)
19. Feasibility Study for Castle Peak Road Improvement between Ka Loon Tsuen
and Tsuen Wan
(Highways Department)
20. Road D15 Linking Lok Shun Path and Tai Po Road
(Territory Development Department)
21. Proposed 2nd 132 kV Submarine Cable Link to Shekou, China
(China Light & Power)
22. Kowloon Point Development Feasibility Study
(Territory Development Department)
23. Hiram's Highway - Improvement between Nam Wai and Ho Chung and
Upgrading Local Access Road
(Highways Department)
24. Engineering Works (Roads & Drains) - Aldrich Bay Reclamation
(Highways Department)
25. Kennedy Road Improvement and Queen's Lines Link
(Highways Department)
26. Four Potential Housing Development Sites - Chai Wan, Sham Tseng, Canton
Road, and Hollywood Road.
(Housing Branch)

End

Value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in February

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The value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand for local production in February 1996 increased by 1% over a year earlier, according to the provisional results of a monthly survey released today (Monday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Comparing February 1996 with February 1995, a significant increase in the value of orders was registered in the fabricated metal products industry (+25%). Increases in the value of orders were also registered in the electrical products industry (+8%) and the electronic products industry (+6%).

On the other hand, decreases in the value of orders were recorded in the textiles industry (-8%), the plastic products industry (-4%), the printing and publishing industry (-4%) and the wearing apparel industry (-3%).

Compared with January 1996, and bearing in mind that this comparison may be affected by seasonal factors, the value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in February 1996 decreased by 1%.

The Monthly Survey of Orders-on-hand covers a sample of some 300 manufacturing firms engaging 50 or more workers.

Manufacturers' orders-on-hand refer to orders and parts of orders received earlier by manufacturers for local production which remain unfilled as at the end of the reference month. Orders received by traders not engaged in production are included if such orders are further placed to manufacturers for production locally. However, orders placed to manufacturing firms for production in China and other places outside Hong Kong are not included in this series of orders-on-hand statistics.

A spokesman of the Department pointed out that caution should be exercised in interpreting the manufacturers' orders-on-hand figures in a single month. Instead, the trend movement of the series as displayed over a wider span of time points should be looked at.

The survey report for February 1996, at \$7.0 a copy, is now available for sale at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, Ground Floor, Queensway, and at the Census and Statistics Department Publications Unit, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries about the survey results may be made to the Industrial Production Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2805 6441.

The following table shows the year-on-year percentage changes in the value of orders-on-hand in different manufacturing industries.

Percentage changes in the value
of orders-on-hand in

January 1996 (Revised)	February 1996 over January 1995 (Provisional)	over February 1995
All industries covered in the survey	+2	+1
• Wearing apparel	-2	-3
• Textiles	-8	-8
• Electronic products	+7	+6
• Electrical products	+9	+8
• Fabricated metal products	+9	+25
• Plastic products	*	-4
• Printing and publishing	+1	-4

* Changes within +/-0.5%

End

Data on business firms available for public retrieval

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A comprehensive database containing up-to-date particulars of about 400,000 active business establishments in Hong Kong is available for retrieval by members of the public from the central register of establishments of the Census and Statistics Department.

The register serves mainly as the sampling frame for various economic surveys conducted by the department. A sample listing containing 20 per cent of non-confidential records randomly selected from the Register is accessible by prospective users.

The records of the register is now widely used by many government departments and private organisations in their publicity, business promotion, survey and research work.

Application for the supply of information such as the name, address, major type of business activity and employment size class of all or part of the listed records can be made to the Central Register of Establishments Section of the department. Records kept in the Register is updated on a quarterly basis and information for the fourth quarter of 1995 is now available.

Information can be supplied in the form of photocopies or specially-run magnetic tapes with a service charge to be levied at the following rates:

- * \$5.6 per page of photocopy for the first 20 pages and \$1.3 for each additional page thereafter;
- * a charge of about \$1,000 for a job requiring special computer run (exact amount depending on the complexity of the job concerned); and
- * if the information is required on magnetic tapes, the magnetic tape can be provided by the applicant, or by the department at a charge of \$105 per tape.

Further details can be obtained from the Central Register of Establishments Section on 2582 4760.

END

Chinese version of annual report published

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The Chinese version of the Annual Report 1995 of the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and the Registrar of Occupational Retirement Schemes has been published.

The English version of the report was published in March this year.

Copies of the Chinese version of the report, at \$68 each, will be on sale from tomorrow (Tuesday) at the Government Publications Sales Centre at Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

End

Water storage figure

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Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 a.m. today (Monday) stood at 80.5 per cent of capacity or 471.813 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 389.849 million cubic metres of water, representing 66.5 per cent of capacity.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

Tender date	22 APR 1996
Paper on offer	EF notes
Issue number	3904
Issue date	23 APR 1996
Maturity date	23 APR 1999
Coupon	6.30 PCT
Amount applied	HK\$3,360 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$500 MN
Average price accepted (yield)	100.05 (6.38 PCT)
Lowest price accepted (yield)	100.05 (6.38 PCT)
Pro rata ratio	About 50 PCT
Average tender price (yield)	99.99 (6.40 PCT)

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
Opening balance in the account	1,784	0930	+1,016
Closing balance in the account	2,125	1000	+1,016
Change attributable to:		1100	+1,016
Money market activity	+1,016	1200	+1,016
LAF today	-675	1500	+1,016
		1600	+1,016

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 123.9 *+0.0* 22.4.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.81	2 years	2802	5.16	98.75	5.98
1 month	4.92	3 years	3901	5.57	98.38	6.31
3 months	5.03	5 years	5103	6.75	99.50	6.99
6 months	5.14	7 years	7302	6.02	93.62	7.34
12 months	5.45	5 years	M502	7.30	100.64	7.26

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$12,932 million

Closed April 22, 1996

End