



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ICC meeting in Hong Kong

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The Sino-British Coordinating Committee on Major Cross-border Infrastructure between Hong Kong and the Mainland (ICC) held its 4th plenary meeting in Hong Kong on Saturday, 16 December 1995. The British side's leader Mr Bowen Leung, Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands and the Chinese side's leader Mr Zhang Liangdong, Director of the Economic Department, HKMAO, State Council attended and chaired today's meeting. The meeting received the reports from the various panels on their work since the 3rd plenary meeting and discussed the way forward for their work.

The meeting endorsed the progress made and the consensus reached in the panels. On the proposed Lingdingyang Bridge and the Shenzhen Western Corridor, both sides considered that from the perspective of long-term development, it is necessary to have an additional link between Hong Kong and South China. The British side further reported on the progress of the study on the two proposals' impact on Hong Kong's environment and transport infrastructure, which would be helpful to the Chinese side's further study on the feasibility of the two projects. On the question of the Tonggu Channel, the meeting came to the view that as the Western alignment would be relatively more viable in engineering and technical terms and more ecologically friendly, it should be the recommended alignment. The two sides agreed that the panel shall discuss their work in the next stage, including issues such as the engineering feasibility study of the Tonggu Channel. On the additional passenger crossing at Lok Ma Chau - Huanggang, the meeting came to the view that there was a need for an additional passenger crossing to enhance the capacity for handling passengers between Hong Kong and the Mainland. The two sides agreed to have further consultation on the arrangement for establishing this additional passenger crossing. On the question of airspace and air traffic control coordination for Hong Kong's new airport, experts from the two sides shall conduct their work on the basis of site visits to the neighbouring airports and further exchange of information.

The meeting reviewed the good progress made in the ICC in the past twelve months. The two sides hold the view that the continued cooperation and coordination between the two sides on major cross-border infrastructure projects is conducive to the promotion of developments in both the Mainland and Hong Kong. The date of the next ICC plenary will be decided in the light of the progress in its various tasks.

End

Informal get together

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Informal Get Together Between Senior Hong Kong
Civil Servants and Officials of the Chinese Side

Following consultation with the Xinhua News Agency (Hong Kong Branch), we are pleased to announce that the third informal get together between senior Hong Kong civil servants and officials of the Chinese side will take place on 21 December 1995 at the Voting Members' Box, Happy Valley Racecourse starting at 10.30 am. It will end after lunch.

Participating officers will be:

Mr Rafael Hui
Secretary for Financial Services

Miss Denise Yue
Secretary for Trade and Industry

Mr Frederick Ho
Commissioner for Census and Statistics

Mr Tony Miller
Director-General of Trade

Mrs Regina Ip
Director-General of Industry

Mr Stephen Selby
Director of Intellectual Property

Mr Joseph Yam, Chief Executive, Hong Kong Monetary Authority will also be attending.

They will be accompanied by Mr Patrick Lau, Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service and Mr Joshua Law, Principal Assistant Secretary for the Civil Service.

End

Hong Kong/Taiwan air services

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In response to press enquiries, a government spokesman said today (Saturday) the Hong Kong Government understood that Cathay and Dragonair had initialled a commercial agreement with two Taiwanese airlines on air services between Hong Kong and Taiwan.

"We have not received the initialled agreement from the Hong Kong airlines.

"After the initialled agreement has been received from the Hong Kong airlines, we will put it to the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group.

"The agreement will be signed by the airlines and will come into effect after clearance by the JLG," he said.

"Before the agreement comes into effect, services between Hong Kong and Taiwan will continue under the existing commercial arrangements between Cathay Pacific and China Airlines," he added.

End

Director of Information Services on suspension of publication of newspapers

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Commenting on the suspension of the publication of the Express and the United Daily News, the Director of Information Services, Mrs Irene Yau, said: "A flourishing media industry is conducive to a free flow of information.

"It is always sad to see a newspaper fold. But we cannot comment on the price war since these are basically business decisions to be taken by individual newspapers."

End

Students display their visions of Hong Kong

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Thirty-nine students were today (Saturday) awarded prizes for their unique "vision" of the future development of Hong Kong.

They were among the 1,737 primary and secondary school students who took part in the "My City of Vision" student painting competition jointly organised by several government departments to promote students' awareness of the growth and future development of the territory.

The winning entries had reflected a high level of creativity and artistic skills, said the chairman of the organising committee and Principal Government Town Planner, Dr Edward Pryor, at the prize-presentation ceremony.

"All of the entries displayed a great sense of dedication and a range of artistic talents.

"Every entry was carefully examined by a team of experts on the basis of the content of the vision, the composition and the artistic skills of the three groups, that is primary school, junior secondary school and senior secondary school entrants," he said.

He said the organising committee was overwhelmed by the response.

"Over 1,700 entries were submitted from 126 primary schools and 95 secondary schools," he added.

The champions, the first runners-up and the second runners-up of the three groups were each presented with trophies and cash coupons for \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500 respectively. Certificates of merit were given to 10 selected entries of each group.

An exhibition of all entries for the competition will be held at the Exhibition Hall, City Hall Low Block between today and December 19 (Tuesday).

The winning paintings will also be displayed in the 13 Urban Council public libraries from January to September 1996.

Officiating at today's ceremony were the Director of Architectural Services, Mr Kenneth Chan; the Director of Information Services, Mrs Irene Yau,; the Director of Urban Services, Mr Albert Lam; the Deputy Director of Education, Mr Kwan Ting-fai; and Principal Government Town Planner of the Planning Department, Dr Edward Pryor.

The 39 winners of the competition are:

Group A (Primary 1 - 6)

Champion

Goh Cher Huan, Lionel
Singapore International School

First Runner-up

Lau Lai Hung
CNEC Lui Ming Choi Primary School

Second Runner-up

Low Jun Fung
Singapore International School

Certificate of Merit

1. Kong Wan Fung
Victoria Park School for the Deaf
2. Li Sze Yu
St Peter's Catholic Primary School
3. Liew Xiao Yun, Roann
Singapore International School
4. Ng Wai Lun
St Peter's Catholic Primary School
5. Cheuk Chi Wing
Dr Catherine F Woo Memorial School

6. Lai Tsz Kan, Joanne
St Stephen's Girls' Primary School
7. Yeung Shing Him, Bernard
Canossa School (Hong Kong) A M
8. Tan Shin Ee
Singapore International School
9. Lo Ching Yang
Kiangsu & Chekiang Primary School
10. Lam Kai Hong
Salesian Yip Hon Primary School

Group B (Secondary 1 - 3)

Champion

Chan Hoi Yan
Helen Liang Memorial Secondary School

First Runner-up

Fung Mei Ling, Sandy
Sacred Heart Canossian College

Second Runner-up

Lee Ka Ying, Jessica
Sacred Heart Canossian College

Certificate of Merit

1. Leung Pui Kie, Paggie
Sacred Heart Canossian College
2. Lo Wing Sze, Winnie
Sacred Heart Canossian College

3. Chan Ming Chi
TWGHs Kap Yan Directors' College
4. Lam Siu Chung
Jockey Club Ti-I College
5. So Shuk Fan
Lai Chack Middle School
6. Chan Pui Shan
Jockey Club Ti-I College
7. Wong Ling Tai
St Paul's College
8. Dania Mu
St Mary's Canossian College
9. Tsui Yuen Man
Jockey Club Ti-I College
10. Chan Mei Yuk
Jockey Club Ti-I College

Group C (Secondary 4 & above)

Champion

Wong Suet Yuk, Milly
St Paul's School (Lam Tin)

First Runner-up

Shum Yin Yan, Christine
St Paul's School (Lam Tin)

Second Runner-up

Chan Tsz Chung, Kitty
Sacred Heart Canossian College

Certificate of Merit

1. Yeung Kwan Wai, Clara
Sacred Heart Canossian College
2. Chan Ka Yee, Teresa
Sacred Heart Canossian College
3. Ho Mo Ching, Cathy
Sacred Heart Canossian College
4. Ngai Hiu Ying, Diana
Sacred Heart Canossian College
5. Yeung Nga Yee, Winnie
Sacred Heart Canossian College
6. Chan Yee Fan, Angel
Sacred Heart Canossian College
7. Tong Kam Pang
Kwun Tong Government Secondary
8. Ma Ka Yi, Claire
Sacred Heart Canossian College
9. Au Yeung Hiu Yan
Tak Oi Secondary School
10. Chan Wai Man
Lai Chack Middle School

End

Co-operation crucial to sound building management

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Sound and effective building management depends on close co-operation among residents, members of Owners' Corporation (OCs) and Mutual Aid Committees (MACs) and various government departments, the Wan Chai District Officer, Mrs Karen Pong, said today (Saturday).

Speaking at the closing of the 1995 Wan Chai Building Management Seminar, Mrs Pong said Wan Chai district had a high concentration of multi-storey buildings which had mixed commercial and residential uses.

"Good building management is especially important in our district," she said.

In order to promote awareness in building management among residents, Mrs Pong said the Government had attached great importance to educational activities.

"Each year we organise courses and seminars on building management. In July, a three-day exhibition was staged at Times Square, benefiting many local residents.

"Our Building Management Co-ordination Team provides professional advice to residents, OCs and MACs. However, the Government's efforts can never replace close co-operation among owners, residents and the Government," Mrs Pong stressed.

Mrs Pong also thanked the Chairlady of the Wan Chai District Board, Mrs Peggy Lam and the Chairman of the board's Environmental Improvement Committee, Mr Wong Hon-ching, the speakers, participants and all those involved in making the event a success.

Mrs Lam also spoke at the closing ceremony.

"Without the unselfish efforts made by members of OCs, an effective building management will not be possible.

"I hope the Government can give them more moral or other forms of support. This will help make our environment better and our neighbours happier," she said.

Jointly organised by the Wan Chai District Board's Environmental Improvement Committee and the Wan Chai District Office, the three-day seminar attracted more than 600 participants. They were offered professional advice by nine speakers from various government departments and independent bodies.

Topics discussed included fire prevention, repair of electrical installations, security, slope maintenance, structural problems, unauthorised building works, anti-corruption, tendering of works, Building Management Ordinance and the roles of the Lands Tribunal and Small Claims Tribunal as legal means to resolve problems.

End

Joint operation to flush out illegal immigrants

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A territory-wide operation against illegal immigration jointly mounted by the Police, Immigration Department and Labour Department has resulted in the arrests of 194 people. The operation is part of the Government's continuous effort to flush out illegal immigrants.

A total of 173 suspected illegal immigrants arrested by the Police have been referred to the Immigration Department. Those found to be illegal immigrants will be repatriated.

A government spokesman reiterated today (Saturday) that there was no question of any amnesty for illegal immigrants.

"Our latest operation should drive home the point that there will be no change to this policy. Anyone foolish enough to believe otherwise is only cheating oneself," he said.

The spokesman stressed that apart from continuous checks throughout the territory, there was no let-up in anti-illegal immigration efforts at the border.

"A high state of vigilance will continue to be maintained by the Police and the security forces both at the land and sea borders," he said.

During the joint operation, which began at 5 am yesterday (Friday) and ended at 5 am today, the Police stepped up their identification spot checks in public places and carried out checks at suspicious locations throughout the territory.

As a result, a total of 15,991 persons, 1,431 vehicles and 436 vessels were stopped for identification checks.

During the operation, Immigration investigators visited a total of 18 residential addresses and business establishments and arrested 21 suspected immigration offenders.

Among the 21 people arrested, there were 18 women and three men, of whom six were Two Way Permit holders, one was an illegal immigrant from China, four were foreign domestic helpers, three were imported workers, one was a visitor and the remaining six were Hong Kong residents.

All the Two Way Permit holders, foreign domestic helpers and imported workers were arrested at places of work. They were suspected of having taken up illegal employment or overstayed in Hong Kong. Five of the Hong Kong residents were suspected of being employers of the arrestees and the remaining one was a suspected aider and abettor.

On the labour front, inspectors of the Labour Department visited 1,312 establishments to weed out any illegal immigrants who may be working there and to check that employers fulfil their legal obligation of keeping proper records of their employees.

A total of 3,559 employees had their proof of identity checked and 12 establishments were found not able to provide a record of employees for inspection.

The spokesman reminded employers that they could be fined up to \$250,000 and jailed for up to three years if they were found to be employing illegal immigrants.

End

Statutory holiday reminder

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The Labour Department today (Saturday) reminded employers to designate either the Chinese Winter Solstice Festival (December 22) or Christmas Day (December 25) as one of the 11 statutory holidays for employees.

Under the Employment Ordinance, all employees, irrespective of their wage levels, are entitled to statutory holidays and must be paid for the day off if they have worked continuously for the same employer for three months or longer before the statutory holiday.

Holiday pay should be equivalent to an employee's earnings on a full working day and should include basic wages as well as allowances that can be expressed in money terms such as meals and cost of living allowances. Where the earnings vary from day to day, holiday pay should be the average daily earnings during every complete wage period, which could be between 28 and 31 days, preceding the holiday.

If an employee is required to work on a statutory holiday, he must be given an alternative day off within 60 days before or after the holiday.

Enquiries about statutory holidays may be made at the Labour Department's General Enquiry Telephone Service on 2717 1771.

End

No evening clinic service on Winter Solstice

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The Department of Health today (Saturday) announced that there would be no evening general out-patient clinic service on Friday (December 22), which is the Winter Solstice.

End

Salt water cut in Sham Shui Po

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Salt water supply to all premises in Sham Shui Po district will be temporarily suspended from 10 pm on Tuesday (December 19) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water main works.

During the same period, salt water supply pressure to all premises in Mong Kok will also be reduced.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ Million	Time (Hours)	Cumulative Change (\$ Million)
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Opening Balance in the account	2,298	09:30	-860
Closing Balance in the account	1,683	10:00	-860
Change Attributable to:		11:00	-860
Money Market Activity	-860	11:30	-860
Laf Today	+245		

Laf Rate 4.25% Bid/6.25% Offer TWI 122.6 *+0.0* 16.12.95

End

Protect our countryside: SPEL

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Hong Kong's country parks are our valuable natural assets and require the co-operation and concerted effort of everyone in the community to conserve them and make them clean and green, the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands (SPEL), Mr Bowen Leung, said today (Sunday).

Speaking at the launching ceremony of the Clean and Green Scheme 1995-96 held at the Sai Kung East Country Park, Mr Leung said the Government has attached great emphasis in protecting these precious natural resources.

"Country parks have become a major source of recreation and relaxation for our community. Over 10 million visitors visit and enjoy these parks every year," he said.

He pointed out that through many years of education and publicity, the number of hill fires had now been contained to a low figure, from 208 hill fires 10 years ago to 96 in 1994-95.

Mr Leung added that litter was unhygienic and degraded our country parks, and some 3,500 tonnes of litter were left in country parks by visitors last year.

"Collection and disposal of dispersed litter in the vast country parks require enormous manpower resources which could otherwise be deployed for better uses such as developing new country park facilities. It would make a great difference if all country park visitors are more considerate and show care for our countryside environment," he said.

Also speaking at the ceremony, the acting Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr Michael Lee, said the Clean and Green Scheme was initiated by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department in 1982 and had since become a popular annual event.

"Its aim is to get the public involved in keeping the country parks clean and green. Last year, the scheme attracted about 18,000 participants and was sponsored by Lions Clubs International District 303. I am glad that Lions Clubs have again kindly agreed to sponsor this year's scheme," Mr Lee said.

He added that the scheme this year would last from December to April next year. It comprises four major clean and green activities which will be open to the public.

The finale of the Scheme would be a "Clean and Green Countryside Fun Day" to be arranged in May next year in a scenic country park, Mr Lee continued.

Winners and outstanding participants of the clean and green activities would be invited to the Fun Day so that they could enjoy the clean and green countryside and share their experience in countryside conservation.

Activities for Clean and Green 1995-96 include "Know Your Country Parks" Guided Walk; Cleaning Country Parks Campaign and Quiz on Countryside Interests. Participating groups and individuals will be presented with pennants and souvenirs.

There will also be a gift design competition in which participants are required to prepare a handy-size gift resembling plants, wildlife or other countryside interests from waste material. The top winner will be awarded \$1,500 and a trophy.

Details of the clean and green activities are contained in posters displayed in country parks, schools, housing estates and other popular public venues.

End

Young people play important roles in society

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Young people are confronted with unprecedented challenges presented by the impending social change of the territory, the Chairman of the Commission on Youth, Mr Eric Li, said today (Sunday).

Speaking at the opening ceremony of a youth forum in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the International Youth Year, Mr Li said young people were playing important roles in our community.

"To help them face up to the challenges during this period of great changes while fulfilling their responsibilities towards society, we have chosen a forum theme that would encourage examination of their character and identity," he said. "It is hoped that the event would give young people an opportunity to reflect and exchange views to help build up their self-confidence and self-esteem.

"We believe this exchange under the guidance of professionals and the participation of well-known personalities serving as role models would help youngsters understand how the diverse social factors influence the development of their personality and the establishment of their identity."

"As reflected in the slogan: 'Dare to be different', we hope young people would not be afraid to pursue their individuality within the confines of proper behaviour, and that they would come to accept their own individuality as they accept others," Mr Li added.

About 750 youngsters aged between 15 and 25 took part in the forum activities which included group discussions on the family, education, mass media, commercial culture and politics. They were held under the supervision of social workers.

Guest speakers included legislators Mrs Selina Chow Liang Shuk-ye and Ms Christine Loh Kung-wai; Mr Peter Lam Yuk-wah from the media; and Mr Tsang Yok-sing from the political sector. They spoke to forum participants about their own experiences. There were also performances by pop singers and dramas to stimulate discussions on how to cope with difficult situation in daily life.

The forum, held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, was jointly organised by the Commission on Youth, Hong Kong Council of Social Service, Home Affairs Branch and Social Welfare Department.

End

"Family gathering" warms up young hearts

* * * * *

Some 230 children shared the Christmas love and joy today (Sunday) with their "father" - the Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan - in a hotel in Wan Chai.

To give the "family gathering" more fun, the organisers staged a series of entertaining performances and interesting games, in addition to a delicious buffet lunch and the giving out of Christmas presents to the children. The children, aged between five and 15, are wards of the Director of Social Welfare because their natural parents are unable to exercise their parental right temporarily or on a long-term basis.

More than 800 such children are now put under the director's guardianship.

Some of them are being looked after by relatives or placed in foster or small group homes. Others are being taken care of by hostels, residential creches or nurseries operated by the Social Welfare Department or non-governmental organisations.

"Like other children, these wards should also be given an opportunity to enjoy the festive fun," Mr Strachan said.

"I want my 'children' know that they are being loved and cared for by their carers, social workers as well as many people in the community," he added.

Mr Strachan thanked all the donors for their generosity in supporting the event and the carers for taking care of his wards over the years.

End

Temporary study rooms for students

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The Education Department will open four temporary study rooms in two government primary schools for students in the Eastern District from January to March, 1996. The study rooms will be open from 2 pm to 5 pm on Saturdays and from 9 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 5 pm on Sundays.

The opening of the four temporary study rooms is a pilot scheme to provide a quiet study place for primary and secondary students in the Eastern District.

The scheme will provide a total of 180 seats. It will be reviewed after three months.

The two schools are Java Road Government Primary School, West Block, North Point Estate; and Shau Ki Wan Government Primary School, 19 Main Street West.

Students in the Eastern District are encouraged to make use of the study room facilities.

End

Fresh water cut in NT and flushing water cut in east Kowloon

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Tai Po and Yuen Long will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (December 20) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water main works.

In Tai Po, the suspension will affect premises in Hong Lok Yuen Road, including Hong Lok Yuen.

In Yuen Long, all premises in Sai Tai Street, Kuk Ting Street, Shui Che Kwun Street, Yuen Long On Lok Road, Tai Lee Street including Tai Hang Street, Tung Tai Street, Tai Cheung Street, Shui Che Square and Tai Fung Street will be affected.

In east Kowloon, flushing water supply will be suspended from 7 pm on Wednesday (December 20) to 8 am the following day.

The affected area will include San Po Kong, Kowloon Bay, Choi Hung, Ping Shek, Choi Wan, Shun Lee, Shun On, Shun Tin, Sau Mau Ping, Lam Tin, Ngau Tau Kok, Kwun Tong and Cha Kwo Ling.

End