



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

Saturday, October 26, 1996

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
CS's statement	1
Bridge testimony to success of minor works projects	2
Labour Advisory Board election nomination reminder	3
Flushing water cut in Sham Shui Po	4
Fresh water cut in Tsuen Wan	5
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	5

Sunday, October 27, 1996

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Transcript of the Governor's media session	6
Employment exhibition to stage in Tsuen Wan	7
Actions to reduce weight of school bags	8
Development strategies exhibition moves to Tsim Sha Tsui	9
Planning, Environment and Lands Branch on the Internet	10
Postmark to commemorate HK's hosting of building congress	11
Twenty organisations to raise funds in November	12
Fresh and flushing water cut in Fanling	14

CS's statement

The following statement is issued by the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, today (Saturday):

"A number of persons have asked me to put myself forward as a candidate for selection as the Chief Executive of the future Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government.

"I am grateful to these people and indeed to the community and to my colleagues in the civil service for their expressions of support and for the confidence they have placed in me. I feel I owe it to all of them to make my position clear.

"I have thought long and hard about how I can best serve the interests of Hong Kong. In particular I wish to do what I can to preserve the integrity, political neutrality and confidence of the civil service which I head.

"After careful consideration of all the relevant factors governing the selection process and having consulted my senior colleagues within the civil service, I have decided not to put my name forward as a candidate for the Chief Executive post.

"Although I shall not be seeking the top post, it remains my wish, and that of my senior colleagues to continue to serve the people of Hong Kong without fear or favour and to play our part in achieving a successful transition.

"The civil service and I am sure the entire community look for a chief executive who:

- * is a person of integrity, principle and courage with strong leadership qualities who will exemplify Hong Kong's autonomy and its hard won international reputation;
- * is committed to the faithful implementation of 'one country, two systems' as set out in the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law;
- * will preserve and protect all the freedoms and rights enshrined in the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law;
- * is able to communicate and deal effectively with China's leaders and thereby earn the confidence and respect of both these leaders and the people of Hong Kong;

- * is responsive to the needs and concerns of the ordinary people of Hong Kong.

"I will support whole-heartedly, as will the entire civil service, a chief executive with these qualities.

"We look to the Selection Committee to make the right choice so that Hong Kong can achieve its full potential in the next century for the benefit not only of the Hong Kong community but also of China and the world at large."

End

Bridge testimony to success of minor works projects

* * * * *

The nine New Territory district working groups set up by the Home Affairs Department (HAD) have been an effective channel in reflecting local needs and implementing the Rural Planning Improvement Strategy (RPIS) Minor Works, the Director of Home Affairs, Mrs Shelley Lau, said today (Saturday).

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Pat Heung Sek Kong Bridge - one of the latest completed RPIS Minor Works projects - Mrs Lau said the working groups were tasked with prioritising projects, looking after and monitoring the planning and implementation of district RPIS projects.

They were chaired by their respective district officers and comprised representatives of rural committees and relevant departments.

HAD also established a central RPIS Minor Works Steering Committee to render advice on policy issues related to RPIS implementation, endorse district programmes and monitor progress.

The Executive Council had earmarked \$1.6 billion in 1989 for the 10-year implementation of RPIS Minor Works programme to improve the infrastructure and living environment in rural areas.

"To make use of the close relationship established between HAD and local communities, HAD has taken over the responsibility of managing RPIS Minor Works programme from the Territory Development Department in November 1994," Mrs Lau said.

Turning to the \$1.7 million Pat Heung Sek Kong Bridge, Mrs Lau said the original had been serving nearby villagers as the major access and utilities conduit for years.

It was destroyed by flooding in 1994. A temporary wooden bridge was constructed within a few days with the support and co-operation of the Yuen Long District Board, Pak Heung Rural Committee, Water Supplies Department, China Light and Power Co, Ltd, Hong Kong Telecommunications Limited and the works section of the Yuen Long District Office.

However, it also collapsed after another flooding in August last year although a second temporary bridge was rebuilt within 24 hours to minimise the inconvenience caused to the villagers and to provide an access to the village until the completion of a permanent concrete bridge as a long-term solution.

Mrs Lau said the successful construction of the permanent Sek Kong bridge was a reflection of the co-operative spirit of residents in Yuen Long and proof positive of the advantages of local participation in the implementation of the RPIS Minor Works projects.

End

Labour Advisory Board election nomination reminder

* * * * *

The Labour Department today (Saturday) reminded registered employee unions to nominate candidates to stand for the coming Labour Advisory Board (LAB) election on or before November 4 (Monday).

The current term of LAB will expire on December 31 and an election of five employee representatives to the Board in its next tenure will be held at 3 pm on November 30 in the Hall of Haking Wong Technical Institute at 702 Lai Chi Kok Road, Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon.

Employee unions registered under the Trade Unions Ordinance on or before October 8 are eligible to nominate not more than five candidates.

They are also eligible to register as electors and appoint authorised representatives to attend the election. The deadline for the registrations and authorisations also falls on November 4.

On employer members, each of the five employer associations, namely the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, the Employers' Federation of Hong Kong, the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong and the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, will nominate one representative to sit for the next tenure of the LAB.

Nominations should reach the department before November 30.

LAB is a tripartite consultative body which advises the Commissioner for Labour on labour matters including legislation and the application of international labour convention and recommendations.

It comprises 12 members, six each on employees' and employers' sides, with the Commissioner for Labour or her deputy as the ex-officio chairman.

Among them, one employer and one employee members will be appointed directly by the Government.

End

Flushing water cut in Sham Shui Po

* * * * *

The flushing water supply to some premises in Sham Shui Po will be temporarily suspended from 8 am to 4 pm on Tuesday (October 29) for alteration work on waterworks.

The suspension will affect all premises in the area bounded by Tonkin Street, Un Chau Street, Yen Chow Street and Lai Chi Kok Road. The suspension will also result in a weak water pressure affecting all premises in Mong Kok area.

End

Fresh water cut in Tsuen Wan

The fresh water supply to some premises in Tsuen Wan will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on October 29 (Tuesday) to 6 am the following day for waste detection work on watermains.

The suspension will affect all premises in Lo Wai Road and Yi Pei Chun Road including Tung Po To, Yi Pei Chun, Lo Wai, Sai Lau Kok Tsuen, Pak Tin Pa Tsuen, Muk Min Ha Tsuen, Hoi Pa Resite Village, Yuen Yuen Hok Yuen and Chuk Lam Sim Yuen.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time</u> <u>(hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative</u> <u>change</u> <u>(\$ million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,331	09:30	+200
Closing balance in the account	1,841	10:00	+200
Change attributable to:		11:00	+200
Money market activity	+200	11:30	+200
LAF today	- 690		

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.9 *+0.0* 26.10.96

End

Transcript of the Governor's media session

* * * * *

Following is the transcript of the media session given by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, at Kai Tak Airport on his return from London today (Sunday):

Governor: Good afternoon. I've had a very successful and interesting trip to London and Scotland. I had good meetings with the Prime Minister and other ministers in London, and good meetings, as well, with Members of Parliament, including Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, and Paddy Ashdown.

I also, as you know, spoke at a number of functions in London, and then was able, in Edinburgh and Glasgow, to attend our very successful business conference and Hong Kong Promotion. And I would just like to underline how outstandingly successful those events in Scotland were.

There is very great interest in what is happening in Hong Kong, enormous enthusiasm for increasing and developing the relationship between Scotland and Hong Kong, and a great deal of goodwill towards what has been achieved in Hong Kong. So I think that bodes extremely well for the future.

I've got another brief visit to Europe in a couple of weeks time, principally to talk about passport issues, in Paris and Bonn, but also to address the Confederation of British Industry Conference in Harrogate. But that will be a slightly differently focused visit, as I say, because it would mainly be concerned with passport issues and visa-free access.

Question: Governor, what do you think about Mrs Anson Chan not running for the Chief Executive post?

Governor: I think the statement which Mrs Chan has made will further enhance the very high esteem in which she is held by the whole community. I'm sure that people will understand and sympathise with her arguments and will agree very much with what she has said. You don't need me to tell you how highly regarded Mrs Chan is in Hong Kong. Perhaps it is worth my while reminding you how equally highly regarded Mrs Chan is everywhere outside Hong Kong. She has a very considerable international reputation as a decisive and honest leader of great integrity, representing always the best qualities of Hong Kong.

Question: Mr Patten, do you have anything to add to the five points?

Governor: No.

Question: Some candidates for the post of Chief Executive have emphasised that there is a need to reach consensus with China rather than to take a confrontational stance. Do you think that is the right way forward for Hong Kong after 1997?

Governor: I think it is always better if you can proceed on the basis of agreement but sometimes you have to stand up for your principles. And of course co-operation isn't a one-way street. Co-operation involves an effort by both sides to reach agreement. You can't define co-operation in terms of only one side ever being required to reach agreement.

Question: Do you think the CS is the most suitable candidate when compared with the four candidates?

Governor: You know very well that while it is an interesting question, I certainly wouldn't answer it.

End

Employment exhibition to stage in Tsuen Wan

* * * * *

The Labour Department will stage an employment exhibition - Employment Information Post - on Wednesday (October 30) in Tsuen Wan Town Hall to help job seekers to find jobs and assist employers to recruit suitable staff.

A total of 17 employers from different trades including manufacturing, catering, department store, hotel, retail, property management, telecommunications and transportation will participate in the exhibition and provide more than 1,000 vacancies for job seekers.

They will brief job seekers on the job requirements of their vacancies and can arrange job interviews on the spot or on a later date.

Five retraining institutes under the Employees Retraining Scheme will also be present to provide job seekers with the latest information on retraining courses. Job seekers who are interested in the courses can submit applications at the venue.

The Labour Department will set up a counter at the venue to promote the job matching services and the Job Matching Centre. A supplement on vacancies registered under the Supplementary Labour Scheme (SLS) will be distributed to job seekers.

On-the-spot registration will be provided to job seekers who wish to obtain the job matching services or apply for the SLS vacancies.

The event is jointly organised by the Labour Department, the Employees Retraining Board, the Employers' Federation of Hong Kong and the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong.

All Hong Kong residents looking for jobs are welcome to visit the Employment Information Post from 11 am to 6 pm on Wednesday at the Exhibition Gallery on first floor, Tsuen Wan Town Hall, Tsuen Wan. Admission is free.

End

Actions to reduce weight of school bags

* * * * *

The Education Department calls for actions to reduce the weight of school bags.

A principal curriculum planning officer, Ms Cheng Chee-hing, said: "The department is very concerned about over-weight school bags, in particular their possible harmful effects on the formation of spines on primary and junior secondary students.

"The department considers it important that measures are taken to tackle the problem, and wishes to obtain support and co-operation from schools."

A set of recently-issued updated guidelines suggested students should be encouraged to develop the habit of packing school bags every day and discouraged from bringing toys, magazines and unnecessary items to schools, Ms Cheng said.

"Schools should advise students on the types of school bags as well as the correct posture in carrying them," she said.

Parents' co-operation and support should be sought so that the advice given to students at school will be reinforced at home, she added.

Time-tables should be designed so as to avoid students from bringing a large number of textbooks, workbooks or exercise books to school on any day of the week or cycle.

Among other qualities, schools should consider the weight of textbooks before determining which textbooks should be prescribed, and avoid too many supplementary workbooks and additional exercise books.

The guidelines also suggested schools to provide students with facilities such as lockers, as far as possible, to store books, stationary and personal items.

Drinking water should also be provided.

Ms Cheng said teachers should avoid punishing students for occasionally failing to bring books or other items in class.

Schools are encouraged to draw up and implement other measures which they consider practicable and effective in their own circumstances, with a view to reduce the weight of school bags, Ms Cheng said.

End

Development strategies exhibition moves to Tsim Sha Tsui

* * * * *

The last of a roving exhibition on the Territorial Development Strategy (TDS) Review 1996 will be staged at the Ocean Terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui from tomorrow (Monday) and will be open daily from 10 am to 8 pm until October 31 (Thursday).

In the four days, 32 panels will be on display. It also features a bilingual documentary video as well as five models on Hong Kong's major development projects. Copies of a leaflet on the TDS Review will also be distributed free of charge.

The roving exhibition was being launched this month at 10 popular locations throughout the territory to introduce to members of the public the proposed development strategies for Hong Kong up to 2011.

It has been well received, with about 120,000 visitors and 45,000 copies of the leaflet distributed so far.

Meanwhile, a smaller scale exhibition on the TDS Review is being staged at the Mass Transit Railway Admiralty Station until the end of this month.

End

Planning, Environment and Lands Branch on the Internet

* * * * *

The Planning, Environment and Lands Branch will be hooked up from tomorrow (Monday) with the Internet to enable the public to have instant access to information on the work of the Branch through downloading from a dedicated homepage.

A Branch spokesman said today (Sunday) that with effect from tomorrow, world-wide Internet users will be able to obtain comprehensive and up-to-date information about the activities of the Branch by visiting the web site at <http://www.pelb.wpelb.gov.hk/>.

As a start, the 90-page homepage is in English. Efforts are being made to turn it into bilingual eventually.

Information to be gleaned from the homepage includes literature about the Branch's organisation, policy commitments, technical circulars, information papers, public consultation documents and press releases.

"We will update information in the homepage continuously to keep users abreast with information we release through other channels," the spokesman said.

Enquiries and suggestions are welcome. They can be sent to the Branch via the built-in enquiries and comments box in the homepage.

End

Postmark to commemorate HK's hosting of building congress

* * * * *

The Postmaster General, Mr Robert Footman, announced today (Sunday) that a special postmark will be introduced on November 4 to commemorate Hong Kong's hosting of the Fourth World Congress of World Organisation of Building Officials (WOBO) to be held from November 2 to 8 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The 1996 WOBO Fourth World Congress is organised by the World Organisation of Building Officials. It provides a forum for building officials and professionals to discuss the improvement of quality of life and resource internationally.

The Post Office will not issue any philatelic product on this occasion, but the special postmark will be made available for hand-back service on November 4 at the following nineteen philatelic offices for any privately-made covers bearing an indication of the event:

Airport Post Office
Aberdeen Post Office
Cheung Chau Post Office
Cheung Sha Wan Post Office
General Post Office
Granville Road Post Office
Harcourt Road Post Office
Hennessy Road Post Office
Kowloon Central Post Office
Kowloon City Post Office
Mong Kok Post Office
Peak Post Office
Sha Tin Central Post Office
Shau Kei Wan Post Office
Tai Po Post Office
Tuen Mun Central Post Office
Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office
Tsuen Wan Post Office
Yuen Long Post Office

End

Twenty organisations to raise funds in November

* * * * *

Twenty organisations have been granted permission to raise funds for charitable purposes next month, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) said today (Sunday).

They will either sell flags, tokens or similar items, or place donation boxes in designated public places.

Members of the public can call SWD's hotline 2343 2255 in case of doubt.

Any organisation planning to hold activities involving collection of money or sale or exchange for donation of badges, tokens or similar articles in a public place for charitable purposes should apply for a public subscription permit from SWD.

The spokesman appealed to organisers to take precautions against any possible fraud.

"Sellers should display the permit or carry copies of the permit for inspection upon request if the fund-raising is mobile," he said.

The spokesman also advised them to prepare guidelines for sellers, setting out the places and the times for selling and the collection points for bags.

"Organisers should inform the Police in case of loss of property, and seek their help when fraudulent acts, such as tampering of collection bags or making unauthorised selling, are found," he said.

Permits are given to the following organisations for raising funds next month:

Flag Day

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
November 2	The Hong Kong Tuberculosis, Chest and Heart Diseases Association
November 9	The Royal British Legion (Hong Kong and China Branch)
November 16	Haven of Hope Hospital
November 23	The Community Chest of Hong Kong
November 30	Hong Kong AIDS Foundation Ltd

Subscription

<u>Event Day</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
November 1 - 6, 8 - 10, 13 - 15, 18 - 22 & 25 - 29	Keswick Foundation Ltd
November 2, 3, 9, 10, 15 - 17, 23 & 24	Hong Kong Movie Star Sports Association Charities Ltd
November 2, 3, 9 & 10	Yan Chai Hospital
November 2 & 3	Watchdog Ltd
November 2, 9, 23 & 30	Shepherd Community Church
November 3	Hong Kong Church of Christ
November 3	Sowers Action
November 3	International Christian Assembly of God Ltd
November 3, 10, 17 & 24	Jesus is Lord School of Ministry (HK) Ltd
November 9	Cedar Fund Ltd
November 10	China Alliance Press
November 17	The Hong Kong Marine Conservation Society
November 17	Word for the World Christian Fellowship
November 23 & 30	Land of Virtue Centre Ltd.
November 29 & 30	Hong Kong Evangelism 2000 Ltd

End

Fresh and flushing water cut in Fanling

* * * * *

The fresh and flushing water supply to some premises in Fanling will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (October 30) to 6 am the following day for waste detection work on watermains.

The suspension will affect all premises in Shek Chung Au section of Sha Tau Kok Road including Wu Shek Kok, Shek Chung Au, Tong To, Tong To Ping Tsuen, San Tsuen, Muk Min Tau, Nga Hiu Tau, Tsiu Hang, Sheung Tam Shui Hang, Ha Tam Shui Hang, Sha Tau Kok Market and Yim Liu Ha; Shan Tsui of Sha Ho Road; as well as Tsoi Yuen Kok and Kong Ha along Lin Ma Hang Road.

End