



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Legal Aid Services Council Bill gazetted

A bill that seeks to provide for a legislative framework for the establishment of an independent Legal Aid Services Council (LASC) was published in the Gazette today (Friday).

Under the Legal Aid Services Council Bill, the proposed council will oversee the Legal Aid Department (LAD) and the Duty Lawyer Service (DLS) and will advise the Government on legal aid policy and funding requirements.

It will be made a corporate body and operate independently from the Government.

"The council will be chaired by a non-official who is independent of both the Government and the legal profession," a Government spokesman said.

"Its members will include lawyers and lay members, in addition to the Director of Legal Aid and the Administrator of the DLS who are directly responsible for the provision of legal aid services," he said.

At present, the Administration does not interfere with decisions made by the LAD or the DLS on the granting of legal aid. The Director of Legal Aid is required under the Legal Aid Ordinance to consider applications before her independently while the DLS is administered jointly by the Bar Association and the Law Society.

The spokesman noted that the establishment of the LASC was a significant policy change that would provide a greater opportunity for public participation in legal aid administration and policy formulation, and hence would enhance the independence of legal aid administration.

"We are aware of the views expressed by the legal profession and other concerned groups that legal aid services should be made even more independent by separating the LAD from the Government," he said.

"We are not ruling out this option, and will ask the independent LASC to examine it in detail once it has been set up. This approach will enable an independent LASC to be established quickly."

If the Government decides at a later stage to dis-establish the LAD, the spokesman added, it will be necessary to consult the staff of the LAD, work out conditions of service for the staff of the new organisation and draw up bridging-over terms.

The proposal to establish an independent LASC was one of the recommendations in the Report of the Reconvened Working Group on Legal Aid Policy Review which was published in July last year.

The implementation of other recommendations in the report was the subject of the Legal Aid (Amendment) Bill 1995, which was introduced into the Legislative Council on January 25.

The Legal Aid Services Council Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council for first and second readings on February 22, 1995.

End/Friday, February 10, 1995

Banking (Amendment) Bill 1995 gazetted

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The government's proposed amendments to the Banking Ordinance to make the Monetary Authority (MA) the licensing authority for all types of authorised institutions was published in the gazette today (Friday).

The Banking (Amendment) Bill 1995 also seeks to clarify the scope, objectives, duties and powers of a manager appointed under the ordinance to take control of an authorised institution, and to effect a number of other operational changes.

Introducing the background to the bill, a government spokesman said the three-tier structure of authorised institutions consisted of licensed banks, restricted licence banks and the deposit-taking companies.

"At present, each of them was licensed or registered by a different designated authority; that is the Governor-in-council, the Financial Secretary and the MA respectively.

"Powers to revoke and suspend also rested with respective designated authorities, except that the current legislation did not provide for suspension of a licensed bank," he said.

The spokesman explained that after a review of the licensing, suspension and revocation provisions, it was proposed to amend the ordinance to establish the MA as the authority responsible for the authorisation, suspension and revocation of all three types of authorised institutions; including new powers to suspend a licensed bank.

"The amendment would also improve the checks and balances in the authorisation arrangements by more clearly distinguishing the administrative and appellate functions and to improve the transparency in the authorisation arrangements by setting out more clearly the criteria which would be used for the authorisation and revocation of all three types of authorised institutions.

"The proposal for vesting full responsibilities for authorisation matters in the MA would be consistent with the practice of central banks in other leading financial centres and the MA's central banking role of maintaining the general stability of the banking system," he added.

On the transfer of powers from the Executive Council and the Financial Secretary to the MA, the spokesman said the proposed amendment would improve the checks and balances of the authorisation provisions in the ordinance.

"Under the new structure, the MA would be responsible for administering all authorisation matters; the Financial Secretary would provide a check as MA would be required to consult him on important authorisation decisions such as suspension and revocation; and ExCo would act as the appellate body for hearing appeals against decisions made by the MA.

The spokesman emphasised that "this represents a significant improvement over the existing system. Under the present structure, there is no appeal against a decision of ExCo to refuse to grant, to revoke or to attach conditions to a banking licence. These decisions would be subject to appeal under the proposed structure."

The amendment also sets out new and additional criteria to be applied by the MA for authorisation, suspension and revocation. Thus, in circumstances where the MA's power to revoke becomes exercisable, the MA should have the power to suspend the authorisation of the institution concerned.

"This power, which already exists in respect of restricted licence banks and deposit-taking companies, would be extended to apply also to licensed banks, enhancing the tools available to the MA in dealing with banking crises," he said.

The spokesman pointed out that another major provision of the bill dealt with the powers of the MA to take control of an institution.

He explained that main objectives of the powers of control were to allow the MA, through a manager, to control the affairs, business and property of a troubled institution so that it can be nursed back to health, perhaps as a prelude to sale and to enable the MA to take quick action to safeguard the assets and maintain the fabric of the business until a liquidator can be appointed.

It was proposed that when the MA gave direction to appoint a manager to take control of an authorised institution, he should specify in the direction the objectives with which the manager was required to comply. This was intended to clarify the broad purpose of the manager's appointment, for example, safeguarding the interest of the depositors.

"Subject to the objectives specified by the MA in his direction, it was proposed that the manager should be given the necessary powers to do all such things as may be necessary to manage the affairs, business and property of the institution." he said

"There are also a number of miscellaneous provisions in the bill that mostly dealt with operational aspects of the ordinance, covering areas such as publication of audited balance sheet, submission of returns and information to the MA, limitation on advances and restriction on the use of the name "Bank", he added.

The bill will be introduced to the Legislative Council on February 22, 1995.

End/Friday, February 10, 1995

Dale appointed Director of Marine

The Government announced today (Friday) that Mr Ian Dale will succeed Mr Allan Pyrke who will retire from the civil service as Director of Marine on March 1 (Wednesday).

Mr Dale, aged 53, joined the civil service as a Marine Officer in 1972. He rose through the ranks to become Assistant Director of Marine in 1990 and Deputy Director of Marine in 1993. He has acted as Director of Marine on a number of occasions.

The Government also announced that Mr Tsui Shung-yiu, Assistant Director of Marine, will assume the post of Deputy Director of Marine.

Mr Tsui is aged 47 and joined the civil service as a Surveyor of Ship in 1978.

End/Friday, February 10, 1995

\$204-million Wanchai Reclamation contract signed

The Phase I development of the Wan Chai Reclamation entered the final stage today (Friday) with the signing of a contract for infrastructure works, a ferry pier and a second road bridge.

The \$204-million contract was signed by the Project Manager of the Hong Kong Island and Islands Development Office, Mr Pang Ho-che, and a representative of the contractor, China Harbour Engineering Company.

Speaking at the contract-signing ceremony, Mr Pang said Phase I of the Wanchai Reclamation formed an important part of the Central and Wanchai Reclamation Project, providing additional land for the expansion of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC).

The Phase I works were being carried out under three contracts. The dredging contract was completed in May 1994 as scheduled; the second contract, which covered reclamation of an island, construction of a bridge and foundation work for the HKCEC Extension Building, is making good progress.

The third contract, which was signed today, will start soon for completion by January 1997, Mr Pang added.

End/Friday, February 10, 1995

One candidate nominated for Kwai Tsing DB by-election

One nomination was received today (Friday) for Kwai Tsing District Board by-election scheduled on April 2 in respect of Lai Wah constituency.

The nomination was submitted by Mr Lau San-ching, aged 42, a welfare worker.

So far, one nomination has been received since the nomination period started yesterday. The nomination period will end on February 22.

End/Friday, February 10, 1995

Trade Director to lead HK delegation to APEC meeting

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The Director-General of Trade, Mr Tony Miller, will lead a Hong Kong delegation to the first Senior Officials Meeting for the 7th Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) to be held in Fukuoka, Japan, from February 13 to 15.

The first Senior Officials Meeting chaired by the Japanese host this year, it will discuss a number of co-operation issues and will initiate work on how to achieve the goal of free trade by the year 2020 as agreed at the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting held in Bogor, Indonesia, last November.

The meeting is preceded by a series of meetings of the newly established Sub-Committees on Standards and Conformance, and Customs Procedures, the Task Forces on Tariff Database and the Review of the APEC Secretariat, as well as meetings of the Committee on Trade and Investment and the Economic Committee.

Following the Senior Officials Meeting, a special session for senior officials is scheduled on February 16 to discuss the action programme on liberalisation and facilitation of trade and investment towards 2020.

Members of the Hong Kong delegation comprise officials from the Trade and Industry Branch, Financial Services Branch, Finance Branch, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Tokyo, Industry Department, Customs and Excise Department and Trade Department.

Member economies of APEC are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and the United States.

End/Friday, February 10, 1995

Foreign direct investment in HK estimated at US\$50b

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The total value of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Hong Kong was estimated at over US\$50 billion as at mid-1994, the Director-General of Industry, Miss Denise Yue, said today (Friday).

Speaking at a forum on "Foreign and Regional Investment in Asia" organised by the City University of Hong Kong, Miss Yue said a major proportion of such investment in Hong Kong came from the Asia-Pacific region, more specifically from China, Japan and the United States.

"One recent estimate puts the size of China's investment in Hong Kong at around US\$25 billion," Miss Yue said.

According to Japan's Ministry of Finance, the value of Japanese FDI in Hong Kong amounted to US\$12.7 billion at the end of March 1994, or about three and a half times the position as at the end of March 1985.

"The US Department of Commerce estimated the amount of FDI from the US in Hong Kong at US\$10.5 billion at the end of 1993, or more than twice of the position as at the end of 1985," she said.

These investments cover a wide range of sectors including manufacturing, wholesale, banking, finance, construction, retailing, transportation, infrastructural projects and tourism.

The total value of FDI in the manufacturing sector is estimated to be in the region of US\$5.2 billion at the end of 1993, or almost three times the amount 10 years ago.

Japan, USA and China provide the lion share of the FDI in Hong Kong's manufacturing sector.

"Despite the widely reported high land and property prices, Hong Kong is one of the world's most cost-effective locations for knowledge-intensive and higher value-added manufacturing and services activities," Miss Yue said.

"Hong Kong's labour productivity in the manufacturing sector grew by an average of 10.5 per cent per annum.

"Our profits tax, at 16.5 per cent, is probably the lowest in the world. Also, we do not have any export quota, or performance requirements or material sourcing restrictions on foreign investors," she added.

As for the level of Hong Kong's investment in other places, Miss Yue said the available information showed an equally substantial direct investment from Hong Kong in Asia.

According to China's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation, Hong Kong is the largest external investor in China, accounting for about two-thirds of its total FDI.

"At the end of 1993, the total realised value of Hong Kong's direct investment in China amounted to about US\$40 billion," she said.

"Apart from China, Hong Kong businessmen have also invested substantially in East Asian economies like Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan and more recently, Vietnam," she added.

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Statistics on ocean vessel and cargo for third quarter of 1994

In the third quarter of 1994, 9,584 ocean vessels with a total capacity of 42.1 million net registered tons arrived at Hong Kong.

This information is contained in the report entitled "Hong Kong Shipping Statistics, July - September 1994" published today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

The figures reflect an increase of 13% in number of vessels and 7% in capacity over the third quarter of 1993.

During the same period, there were 9,667 outgoing ocean vessels with a total capacity of 42.5 million net registered tons, representing an increase of 12% in number and 7% in capacity over the third quarter of 1993.

In the third quarter of 1994, the total tonnage of cargo discharged in Hong Kong from incoming ocean vessels, including seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment, was estimated to be 20.0 million tonnes, representing an increase of 14% over the same quarter in 1993.

During the same period, the total tonnage of cargo loaded onto outgoing ocean vessels, including seaborne exports (domestic exports plus re-exports) and seaborne outward transshipment, was estimated to be 9.3 million tonnes, representing an increase of 24%.

Of the cargoes discharged from incoming ocean vessels, 82% in terms of tonnage were seaborne imports and 18% were seaborne inward transshipment; 52% of these cargoes were containerised.

Of those loaded onto outgoing ocean vessels, 63% in terms of tonnage were seaborne exports (domestic exports plus re-exports) and 37% were seaborne outward transshipment; 87% of them were containerised cargo.

The above statistics are summarised in Table 1.

In the third quarter of 1994, the top five countries of loading for cargo discharged from incoming ocean vessels (including seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment) were Singapore (which accounted for 18% in tonnage terms), China (13%), Japan (12%), Taiwan (10%) and the U.S.A. (8%).

The top five countries of discharge for cargo loaded onto outgoing ocean vessels (including seaborne exports and seaborne outward transshipment) were the U.S.A. (22%), China (21%), Taiwan (7%), Japan (5%) and the Federal Republic of Germany (4%).

The top five principal commodities discharged from incoming ocean vessels in tonnage terms include petroleum, petroleum products and related materials (18%); coal, coke and briquettes (13%); artificial resins and plastic materials (8%); iron and steel (7%); and paper and paper products (6%).

The top five principal commodities loaded onto outgoing ocean vessels in tonnage terms include machinery (11%); other manufactured goods classified chiefly by material (10%); other manufactured articles (8%); toys (8%); and articles of apparel and clothing accessories (6%).

The distribution of the top 10 countries of loading and discharge and their changes in the tonnage of cargo discharged and loaded between the third quarter of 1994 and the third quarter of 1993 are shown in Table 2 and Table 3.

Similar statistics for cargo discharged and loaded analysed by the top 10 principal commodities are shown in Table 4 and Table 5.

Ocean vessel statistics are compiled primarily from general declarations submitted to the Marine Department by ship masters or authorised shipping agents and cover all ocean vessels entering and leaving Hong Kong, excluding yachts and pleasure craft.

Cargo statistics are compiled from a sample of consignments listed in the ocean cargo manifests supplied by shipping companies or agents to the Census and Statistics Department. The sampling method is described in the explanatory notes of the report.

More details of ocean vessel and cargo statistics for the third quarter of 1994 are contained in the report entitled "Hong Kong Shipping Statistics, July - September 1994". This report is published in bilingual form starting from the third quarter 1994 issue.

The report is now on sale at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, and the Publications Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai at \$52 a copy.

Enquiries on statistics contained in the report may be directed to the Shipping and Cargo Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on telephone 2582 4887.

Note: a net registered ton is a unit of measure in volume terms of the space of a vessel available for carrying passengers or goods; one net registered ton equals 100 cubic feet.

Table 1: Summary of ocean vessel and cargo statistics

	3rd quarter <u>1994</u>	% change over 3rd quarter <u>1993</u>
Incoming ocean vessel		
Number	9 584	+13
Capacity (Mn. net registered tons)	42.1	+7
Cargo discharged (Mn. tonnes)	20.0 (52)	+14
Seaborne imports (Mn. tonnes)	16.5 (43)	+9
Seaborne inward transshipment (Mn. tonnes)	3.5 (93)	+44
Outgoing ocean vessel		
Number	9 667	+12
Capacity (Mn. net registered tons)	42.5	+7
Cargo loaded (Mn. tonnes)	9.3 (87)	+24
Seaborne exports (Mn. tonnes)	5.9 (81)	+14
(including domestic exports and re-exports)		
Seaborne outward transshipment (Mn. tonnes)	3.4 (98)	+44

Note: Figures in brackets denote the extent of containerization in percentage.

Table 2: Cargo discharged⁽¹⁾ from incoming ocean vessels
by the top ten countries of loading

<u>Country of loading</u>	<u>3rd quarter</u> <u>1994</u> ('000 tonnes)	<u>% share⁽²⁾</u>	<u>% change over</u> <u>3rd quarter 1993</u>
Singapore	3 683	18	+33
China	2 547	13	+27
Japan	2 339	12	+4
Taiwan	1 975	10	+4
U.S.A.	1 580	8	+34
Republic of Korea	1 244	6	+4
Australia	1 165	6	+26
Republic of South Africa	722	4	-59
Indonesia	689	3	+78
Thailand	482	2	+23

- Notes:
- (1) Cargo discharged includes seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment.
 - (2) % share is the share in tonnage terms with respect to the total tonnage of cargo discharged from incoming ocean vessels.

Table 3: Cargo loaded⁽¹⁾ onto outgoing ocean vessels
by the top ten countries of discharge

<u>Country of discharge</u>	<u>3rd quarter</u> <u>1994</u> ('000 tonnes)	<u>% share</u> ⁽²⁾	<u>% change over</u> <u>3rd quarter 1993</u>
U.S.A.	2 079	22	+24
China	1 943	21	+40
Taiwan	682	7	-3
Japan	421	5	+38
Federal Republic of Germany	406	4	+32
Netherlands	389	4	+32
Singapore	348	4	+10
Philippines	280	3	+39
United Kingdom	261	3	+16
Thailand	253	3	+98

- Notes:
- (1) Cargo loaded includes seaborne exports and seaborne outward transshipment.
 - (2) % share is the share in tonnage terms with respect to the total tonnage of cargo loaded onto outgoing ocean vessels.

Table 4: Cargo discharged⁽¹⁾ from incoming ocean vessels
by the top ten principal commodities

<u>Commodity group</u>	<u>3rd quarter</u>		<u>% change over</u>
	<u>1994</u>	<u>% share⁽²⁾</u>	<u>3rd quarter 1993</u>
	('000 tonnes)		
Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	3 585	18	+9
Coal, coke and briquettes	2 541	13	-16
Artificial resins and plastic materials	1 700	8	+33
Iron and steel	1 488	7	-6
Paper and paper products	1 265	6	+45
Machinery	1 034	5	+22
Other manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	880	4	+5
Cement and cement clinker	757	4	+9
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	637	3	+40
Other chemicals and related products	434	2	+7

- Notes:
- (1) Cargo discharged includes seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment.
 - (2) % share is the share in tonnage terms with respect to the total tonnage of cargo discharged from incoming ocean vessels.

Table 5: Cargo loaded⁽¹⁾ onto outgoing ocean vessels
by the top ten principal commodities

<u>Commodity group</u>	<u>3rd quarter</u>		<u>% change over 3rd quarter 1993</u>
	<u>1994</u>	<u>% share⁽²⁾</u>	
	('000 tonnes)		
Machinery	984	11	+25
Other manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	907	10	+23
Other manufactured articles	721	8	+16
Toys	708	8	+18
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	545	6	+7
Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	469	5	+14
Other chemicals and related products	379	4	+67
Footwear	332	4	+15
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	315	3	-21
Artificial resins and plastic materials	298	3	+40

- Notes:
- (1) Cargo loaded includes seaborne exports and seaborne outward transshipment.
 - (2) % share is the share in tonnage terms with respect to the total tonnage of cargo loaded onto outgoing ocean vessels.

End/Friday, February 10, 1995

Secondary school exhibition on Airport Core Programme

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Students from the Shun Tak Fraternal Association Seaward Woo College took three prizes today (Friday) in the first Airport Core Programme (ACP) Joint School Exhibition cum Competition which opened today (Friday).

The school won the top prize of Championship for the Best Booth Award, as well as the Award for the Most Popular Booth and the Award for Originality for their exhibition booth entitled "Explosion of Noise".

A 15-year-old student, Miss Hung Kam-yuk, said their team, comprising 18 students and headed by their teacher Miss Chan, had spent one and a half months on the project.

"We do not expect to win three prizes, so it is a wonderful surprise to all of us. This is a most interesting project and we have learnt a lot more about the ACP," said Miss Hung after the prize-giving ceremony.

Students from a total of 16 secondary schools are taking part in the exhibition, organised by the New Airport Projects Co-ordination Office (NAPCO), as part of the department's continuing effort to promote better understanding of the 10 ACP projects among young people.

Each of the participating schools mounted its own booth to cover different aspects of the ACP. These include displays on the impact of the ACP on Hong Kong, the changing face of North Lantau, the new airport at Chek Lap Kok and its transport links.

Professor Alex Fung of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University's School of Design and a member of the panel of judges said the displays were very impressive, using a lot of computer graphic designs and multi-media techniques.

"The students were well organised in their work, representing a high spirit of co-operation," he said.

The exhibition was opened this afternoon by the Director of Education, Mr Lam Woon-kwong; the Chairman of the Legislative Council Panel of Education, Mr Tik Chi-yuen; and the Director of NAPCO, Mr Billy Lam.

Eight awards were presented to the participating schools:

* Championship for the Best Booth Award - won by the Shun Tak Fraternal Association Seaward Woo College

* First runner-up for the Best Booth Award - won by TWGHs Chang Ming Thien College

* Second runner-up for the Best Booth Award - won by St Catharine's School for Girls

* Award for Originality - won by the Shun Tak Fraternal Association Seaward Woo College

* Award for the Best Content Booth - won by Ho Lap College

* Award for the Most Attractive Booth - won by Pui Shing Catholic Secondary School

* Award for the Best Team Work - won by Diocesan Girls' School

* Award for the Most Popular Booth - won by the Shun Tak Fraternal Association Seaward Woo College

The exhibition will be open to the public for three days from tomorrow (Saturday) to next Monday (February 13) daily between 10 am and 6 pm. Admission is free.

End/Friday, February 10, 1995

Film censorship reflects community standards

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The views of the public advisers are instrumental in ensuring that the film censorship standards do reflect the community standards, the Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing, Mrs Rita Lau, said.

There are now about 300 public advisers. Six or seven of them view each film and advise the censors of the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA) on whether a film should be classified as Category I, II or III, with or without excision.

At a spring reception hosted by TELA this (Friday) evening, Mrs Lau said: "For 93 per cent of the 615 films approved during the period from September to December last year, the censors adopted the majority views of the public advisers as the decisions.

"As regards the remainder, the censors' decisions were more strict than the majority views of the public advisers in five per cent of the cases and more lenient in only two per cent of the cases."

"In view of the need to maintain consistency in standards, it is inevitable that the censors' decisions are sometimes different from the public advisers'. The earlier statistics show, however, the importance we attach to their views," she said.

Mrs Lau also pointed out that according to the findings of a public opinion survey completed by an independent research firm in April last year, the current film censorship standards do closely resemble those held by the majority of the respondents.

"This is proof that our standards do reflect the community's and the credit goes to the panel of public advisers."

The present advisers include persons from different occupations, different age groups and different educational levels. The female gender, however, appears to be under-represented as only one-third of the advisers are female.

Mrs Lau made an appeal for more women to apply as public advisers and said they would be given priority in appointment.

"Indeed, the appointment is open to any non-civil servant who is aged 18 or above provided that the appointment would not give rise to any conflict of interest. Applicants should write to our office on 39th floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Hong Kong or give our Executive Officer (Films) a call on 2594 5788," she added.

About 250 persons attended the spring reception. In addition to the public advisers, the guests included members of the Board of Review on Film Censorship, members of the film and video industries, film critics and reporters.

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Electronics industry report

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The Industry Department will publish a techno-economic and market research study report on Hong Kong's electronics industry tomorrow (Saturday).

The report, in three volumes, covers findings of a study by government-commissioned consultants on the current state of development of Hong Kong's electronics industry and recommendations on how to remove constraints on its growth and enhance its competitiveness.

A spokesman for the department said the study, conducted in 1993-1994, was the second of its kind since the first was undertaken in 1988-1989.

"The study comprised two phases: a phase I study which was undertaken by the Boston Consulting Group International Inc and a phase II study by Dataquest Inc," he said.

The phase I study analysed Hong Kong's electronics industry and compared it with its major competitors, such as Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and China.

The phase II study examined the global and regional market and technology trends affecting the electronics industry. It also identified 18 product opportunities for the industry in both emerging high-growth markets as well as low-growth but high-volume markets.

The consultants made recommendations on a wide range of issues, including research and development, technology transfer, supporting industries/infrastructure, education and training, marketing and promotion, and industrial support services.

"These recommendations have been considered thoroughly by the Electronics Committee of the Industry and Technology Development Council," the spokesman said.

"The recommendations will be further examined by the Government having regard to the advice from the Industry and Technology Development Council, relevant policy consideration and the availability of resources before follow-up actions are finalised," he added.

Copies of the techno-economic and market research study report will be available from the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway, at \$66 for Volume 1, \$190 for Volume 2 and \$165 for Volume 3.

End/Friday, February 10, 1995

Public hearings on radio licence set for May

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The following is issued on behalf of the Broadcasting Authority:

The Broadcasting Authority (BA) decided at a meeting yesterday (Thursday) to hold two public hearings in May this year as part of its mid-term review of the radio licence held by Commercial Radio. The public hearings will be held in the evenings of May 9 and 18 in the Lecture Hall of the Science Museum in Tsim Sha Tsui.

A spokesman for BA said the venue had proved popular last year when it held public hearings as part of the mid-term review of ATV and TVB.

The spokesman explained that the format of the hearings would be similar to that of last year, which had been well received by the public.

He added that the BA was liaising with Commercial Radio to explore the possibility of broadcasting the event to enable it to reach a wider audience.

The BA also considered a number of public complaints about television and radio broadcasters.

It advised ATV and TVB to observe more closely the television programme standards in respect of the programmes "Hong Kong Today" and "Focus on Focus" broadcast on their Chinese language channels. The programmes had attracted public complaints over their treatment of the story of a woman alleged to have offered sexual favours to taxi drivers.

The BA found that, although the subject matter was not outright unacceptable, the treatment had been of bad taste and doubtful propriety and had bordered on indecency.

Considering however that this was the first time that the two stations had committed such a breach, the BA decided that a written advice was appropriate and should help to remind the stations of the programme standards laid down in the codes.

At the meeting, it also considered a number of reports and analyses.

End/Friday, February 10, 1995

British Garrison helps drug rehabilitation centre

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The following is issued on behalf of Joint Service Public Relations Staff:

The Army and the Royal Air Force in Hong Kong are co-operating to assist a drug rehabilitation centre. Operation Dawn, an international organisation funded by the Christian church, runs a unit on Town Island, near High Island in Sai Kung Country Park.

In what is probably the biggest community relations project to be undertaken by the British Garrison this year, 67 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron, the Queen's Gurkha Engineers are constructing three accommodation blocks to provide the unit with places for an additional 60 long-term and 30 short-term residents.

C Troop 67 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron started work on the block on February 6 and are due to finish on February 24. Support has been provided by No. 28 (AC) Squadron Royal Air Force who are flying in building materials, equipment and supplies as underslung loads beneath their Wessex helicopters.

The Chief of Staff at Headquarters British Forces, Captain Peter Melson, will visit the project on Tuesday (February 14), accompanied by the Officer Commanding 67 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron, Major Alistair Sheppard, and the Gurkha Captain, Captain (QGO) Mohan Kumar Gurung.

Attention news editors:

You are invited to send representatives to cover Captain Melson's visit and to see the work being carried out by C Troop 67 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron and No. 28 (AC) Squadron RAF. Photo opportunities will be provided to see heavy equipment being flown in by helicopter.

A coach will be arranged to carry the media from Prince of Wales Barracks, Central, to High Island from where a helicopter will fly them out to Town Island. The coach will depart from Prince of Wales Barracks at 8.30 am. Media representatives should arrive at the main gate no later than 8.15 am.

The media will be flown back to High Island and return by coach to Prince of Wales Barracks at 12.30 pm.

Those wishing to attend should contact Joint Service Public Relations Staff on 2588 3313.

End/Friday, February 10, 1995

Students benefit from seized endangered species

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Students from 55 schools are set to benefit from specimens of endangered species donated by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) for educational purposes.

A total of 144 pieces of endangered species, including stuffed sea turtle, stuffed crocodile, cobra skin, elephant tusk and coral skeleton, were given to the schools and the Education Department's Field Studies Centre.

The specimens came into AFD's possession as a result of enforcement of endangered species protection legislation.

Commenting on the exercise, an AFD conservation officer, Dr So Ping-man, pointed out that response from schools to the offer, which was announced in a teacher seminar last year, had been encouraging.

"We hope that the specimens can be used to more effectively put across the message of endangered species protection to students through display at schools.

Dr So stressed that while law enforcement could be a tool in protecting endangered species, more fundamental to the issue was to educate the public about its importance.

"With regard to public education, we consider our students a good starting point.

"If we could make our students realise the importance of protecting endangered species and the way they can be of assistance, we would have more conservation-minded citizens in the future," he added.

Dr So also reminded the public to strictly abide by the Animals and Plants (Protection of Endangered Species) Ordinance.

Following the recent legislative amendment, any person convicted of importing, exporting or possessing a highly endangered species could face a maximum fine of \$5 million plus two years' imprisonment.

Species under this category include rhinos, tigers, most bears, sea turtles, some wild orchids and medicine containing or claiming to contain rhino or tiger ingredients.

End/Friday, February 10, 1995

Approach lighting for new airport planned

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The Provisional Airport Authority plans to construct approach lighting for the southern runway of the new airport at Chek Lap Kok at about 4.32 hectares of foreshore and seabed to the west of the airport.

The works will begin in December this year for completion in about one year.

The extent of the area affected is notified in the Gazette today (Friday).

The notice and its related plans can be seen on notice boards near the site.

The plans can also be seen at the Lands Department's Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, and at the Islands District Office, 20th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central. The plan can also be purchased at the Survey and Mapping Office.

Any person who considers that his interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and seabed involved will be affected, may submit a written objection to the Director of Lands before April 10.

End/Friday, February 10, 1995

Stormwater drainage works for Northwest Kowloon

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The Drainage Services Department is inviting tenders for the construction of sewerage and stormwater drainage works for stages II and III of the North West Kowloon Sewerage project.

The proposed works form part of the implementation of the North West Kowloon Sewerage Master Plan and West Kowloon Reclamation - Hinterland Drainage Improvement Scheme, which are to upgrade and improve existing sewers and stormwater drains in Lai Chi Kok, Sham Shui Po, Mong Kok and Yau Ma Tei.

About 9,200 metres of sewers, 4,000 metres of stormwater drains and box culverts will be built under the contract.

Completion of the works will bring about significant reductions in frequency and seriousness of overflowing of sewage and flooding in the areas. The works are scheduled to start in May this year and will take about 22 months to complete.

A notice inviting tenders was gazetted today (Friday).

Tender Forms and further particulars may be obtained from the office of the Consulting Engineers, Montgomery Watson Hong Kong Limited, at 311 Gloucester Road, 1911 Windsor House, Causeway Bay.

The tender closing date is noon on March 3.

End/Friday, February 10, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
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Opening balance in the account	1,715	0930	+1,266
Closing balance in the account	1,548	1000	+1,276
Change attributable to :		1100	+1,286
Money market activity	+1,193	1200	+1,288
LAF today	-1,360	1500	+1,193
		1600	+1,193

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 121.2 *+0.0* 10.2.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.86	16 months	2605	6.35	99.09	7.23
1 month	6.16	22 months	2611	6.90	99.24	7.49
3 months	6.46	30 months	3707	6.95	98.43	7.81
6 months	6.72	36 months	3801	8.00	100.39	8.00
12 months	7.05	59 months	5912	8.15	99.38	8.48

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$26,246 million

Closed February 10, 1995

End/Friday, February 10, 1995