



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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European business leaders optimistic about HK's future

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European business leaders have expressed optimism about the opportunities for doing business in and through Hong Kong in the future, according to the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, today (Thursday).

"Businessmen are generally upbeat about the opportunities available, but they are concerned that the current basis on which business is conducted in Hong Kong, such as the rule of law and the level playing fields, will continue," she said.

Mrs Chan, who is currently visiting three European Union countries, has held a series of meetings with senior business people in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. Most of the companies represented at the meetings already had well-established operations in Hong Kong.

She said the Hong Kong Government also shared the concerns that had been raised by the businessmen. Discussions were being held with the Chinese authorities to ensure the necessary legislative and administrative framework was put in place before 1997 for the full and faithful implementation of the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law.

"It is vital for our future as one of the world's leading international cities that all the elements which go to make up our business-friendly environment remain as strong as ever after 1997," she stressed.

Mrs Chan emphasised the importance of the early establishment of the Court of Final Appeal as one of the measures being taken to ensure the rule of law. She hoped agreement could soon be reached with China on this issue, but time was fast running out to get the court operating before 1997.

The question of the Hong Kong dollar link with the US dollar was also raised during the meetings and Mrs Chan made it clear that the link would remain in place. This was a view which was also shared by Chinese authorities.

Mrs Chan said one of the main reasons for her visit, the first since she had been appointed Chief Secretary, was to bring European political and business leaders up to date with developments in Hong Kong, particularly on the economy and the progress being made on transitional issues.

"I also wanted to sound out business leaders on whether they had any concerns. If there were any areas where the government could do more to help them.

"I am encouraged by the general air of optimism over Hong Kong and we will do everything we can to overcome the concerns that have been expressed," Mrs Chan said.

The Chief Secretary has had discussions with more than 50 business leaders in three major meetings - in Brussels with industrialists under the umbrella of the Belgian Foreign Trade Office; in the Hague through the Royal Dutch/Shell Group, one of the world's largest business enterprises; and in Dusseldorf through the Westdeutsche Landesbank, the third largest bank in Germany.

End/Friday, April 28, 1995

CS winds up a successful visit to Europe

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The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, concluded her visit to three European countries late today (Friday), heartened by the interest shown in Hong Kong by government and business leaders.

During her week-long visit, which took in Brussels, The Hague, Dusseldorf and Bonn, Mrs Chan has briefed prime ministers, members of parliament, other senior government officials and prominent businessmen about Hong Kong and the preparations being made for the transition to Chinese sovereignty in less than 800 days.

"In general, there has been a great deal of interest in Hong Kong, both in our current situation and, in particular, how we will function as a Special Administrative Region.

"Most of the people I have met are very optimistic about Hong Kong's economic prospects. But they expressed concern about our business environment after 1997 and whether our economic fundamentals will remain strong," Mrs Chan said.

The Chief Secretary explained the need to have in place before '97 the necessary legislative and administrative framework to ensure Hong Kong continued as a thriving international city.

Interest was also expressed in China, in particularly how the economy was performing. There was a general recognition of the potential of the vast Chinese market and the valuable role Hong Kong played in terms of access to China and Hong Kong's substantial investments in the country.

Other issues such as the continuation of the Hong Kong dollar link with the US dollar and fears over increased corruption were also raised.

However, Mrs Chan emphasised that the dollar link would continue and that extra measures were being taken to ensure that the Independent Commission Against Corruption was fully equipped to carry out its work to effectively combat corruption now and after 1997.

At meetings in Bonn this morning, both the German Minister of Economic Affairs, Dr Gunter Rexrodt, and the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Helmut Shafer, indicated that Germany was interested in Hong Kong continuing much as it was now - a major business centre, protected by the rule of law. They hoped German investment would continue to grow and that relations with Hong Kong would be strengthened.

They also said that Germany would like to continue using Hong Kong as a base from which to do business with China and the region as a whole. They stressed the benefits of having more exchanges of visitors between Germany and Hong Kong.

Mrs Chan also had meetings with the German Ministry of Finance and the Vice President of the Bundestag, Mr Klose.

The Chief Secretary also was a special guest at a working luncheon organised by the prestigious Konrad Adenauer Foundation. Guests included politicians, government officials, business executives, academics and representatives of the German media.

End/Friday, April 28, 1995

Administration of Justice Bill gazetted

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The Administration of Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) (No. 2) Bill 1995, which incorporates a number of amendments regarding press freedom, human rights and the criminal law, was gazetted today (Friday).

A spokesman for the Legal Department today said in respect of press freedom, the Bill proposes to repeal an offence of defamatory libel and certain restrictions on the publication of reports of judicial proceedings, and to relax restrictions on the reporting of a preparatory hearing of a complex commercial crime.

The spokesman said the Bill seeks to repeal Section 6 of the Defamation Ordinance which provides that any person who maliciously publishes any defamatory libel shall be liable to imprisonment for one year. The offence does not require proof of an intention to defame nor is truth in itself a defence.

The Administration believed that the criminal law should not be used to protect reputation except from the most serious and flagrant attacks, the spokesman said.

He said: "The Bill also proposes to repeal Section 3(1)(a) of the Judicial Proceedings (Regulation of Reports) Ordinance which makes it an offence to print or publish, in relation to any judicial proceedings, 'any indecent matter or any medical, surgical or physiological details being matter or details which are of a revolting or offensive nature or the publication of which would be calculated to injure public morals'."

The Administration considered that it was unreasonable to expect the press to judge whether the publication of certain matter would be "calculated" to injure public morals, he said.

He noted that the Bill also proposes amendments to the Complex Commercial Crimes Ordinance so that publication of reports of a preparatory hearing of serious and complex commercial crime cases will be allowed after the case has been concluded.

The spokesman said another important aspect of the Bill was to repeal or amend certain provisions which were inconsistent with the Bill of Rights Ordinance (BORO). They include an offence of possessing an offensive weapon and the court's power to hold criminal proceedings in closed court.

The spokesman said: "Under Section 17 of the Summary Offences Ordinance, it is an offence for a person to be in possession of certain things, including an offensive weapon, 'with intent to use the same for any unlawful purpose, or being unable to give satisfactory account of his possession thereof'.

"In 1994, the Court of Appeal decided that the words 'or being unable to give satisfactory account of his possession thereof' were inconsistent with the presumption of innocence in article 11 of the BORO, and had subsequently been repealed," he said.

Another proposed amendment relating to BORO is to limit a court's power to hold criminal proceedings in closed court and provide a right to appeal against any closure order under the Criminal Procedure Ordinance.

The spokesman said on the law relating to the release of prisoners under supervision, the Bill provides that when determining a prisoner's eligibility for release under supervision, any period he spent in custody before conviction, as well as after, must be taken into account.

Also included in the Bill is an amendment which makes it clear that where a person has expressed a wish that parts of his body be removed after his death, his next-of-kin cannot override his request.

Apart from the above proposed amendments, the spokesman said, the Bill also introduces changes in the law relating to the Superintendents' Discretion Scheme; advance notice of expert evidence; appeal against quashed indictment; Law Society's right of intervention in respect of a solicitor's or foreign lawyer's practice; Attorney General's power of appointment of judicial trustees; and powers of search and seizure by immigration officers.

The Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council on May 10.

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Gazettal of Telephone (Amendment) Bill 1995

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The Telephone (Amendment) Bill 1995, which aims to facilitate the introduction of local fixed network services competition after the expiry of Hong Kong Telephone Company's monopoly on June 30 this year, was gazetted today (Friday).

A spokesman for the Economic Services Branch said: "The Telephone Ordinance currently regulates the monopoly services provided by the Hong Kong Telephone Company. When its monopoly expires on June 30, the company, similar to its three new competitors, Hutchison Communications, New T & T Hong Kong, and New World Telephone, will be granted a Fixed Telecommunication Network Services (FTNS) licence to regulate its services.

"It is necessary to amend the Telephone Ordinance to remove those provisions which are no longer applicable when Hong Kong Telephone takes up its new licence.

"Some provisions in the Ordinance will continue to be required. These relate to the management of the telephone numbering plan and the enforcement of the current price capping arrangement for certain basic telephone services provided by Hong Kong Telephone.

"It is our intention that the price control arrangement will continue to be enforced as long as Hong Kong Telephone remains the dominant provider of such services. However, the provisions will need to be amended to enable them to operate effectively in a competitive environment.

"Another proposal in the Bill concerns the allocation of special telephone numbers. Given the appeal of special telephone numbers to the public, it is necessary to ensure that such numbers are allocated through an open and transparent system.

"It is proposed that the Secretary for Economic Services should be given power under the Ordinance to specify that certain telephone numbers may be allocated through public tender or auction.

"The arrangement will be similar to the allocation of special car registration numbers. The Bill only seeks to provide the enabling power. The detailed arrangement will be specified in regulations under the Ordinance".

The Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council on May 10 1995.

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Money statistics for March 1995

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According to statistics published today (Friday) by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, all the monetary aggregates recorded growth in March 1995 except currency held by the public.

Foreign currency swap deposits continued to fall sharply reflecting the second stage of deregulation of the interest rate cap on HK dollar time deposits, which took effect from January 3, 1995.

Table 1 sets out summary figures for March 1995 and comparisons with earlier months.

Deposits

Total HK dollar deposits grew by 2.2% in March 1995, compared to 2.1% last month. All types of HK dollar deposits rose during the month. HK dollar demand deposits, savings deposits and time deposits rose 5.9%, 0.3% and 2.4 % respectively

Possible reasons for the rise in HK dollar demand deposits include increased transaction demand in part due to the improved performance of the local asset markets, and the unwinding of Chinese New Year effect on notes in circulation with the public.

The growth of foreign currency deposits moderated from 3.7% in February to 3.2% in March. The rise was mainly in non-US dollar deposits which increased by 6.8% mostly due to the valuation effect from the weakening of the HK dollar during the month.

Swap deposits continued to decline. The 10.4% reduction in March brought the total decline since the November peak to 32%. This is mostly due to the gradual removal of the Hong Kong Association of Banks' interest rate cap which has made HK dollar time deposits a preferred alternative.

Loans and Advances

Total outstanding loans and advances extended by AIs expanded notably by 4.5% in March, up from 2.1% in February. Foreign currency loans grew particularly strongly during the month, again at least partly due to the valuation effect. The growth in HK dollar loans, however, rose slightly from 0.7% in February to 1.1% in March.

Quarterly analysis of loans for use in Hong Kong by sector

During the March quarter of 1995, total loans for use in Hong Kong (excluding those for trade financing) increased by 2.8%.

Of these, the growth of loans to purchase residential property (excluding flats in the Home Ownership Scheme and Private Sector Participation Scheme) picked up during the quarter, from 1.4% in the preceding quarter to 1.6% in this quarter.

Outstanding loans to other major economic sectors showed varied performance.

Loans to the manufacturing sector grew strongly by 6.7% during the quarter, following the 5% growth in the preceding quarter, reflecting the pick up of domestic exports and re-exports.

Loans to building, construction, property development and investment grew 2.7% during the quarter. Loans to wholesale and retail trade recorded growth of around 4% during the March quarter.

Money Supply

Currency holdings by the public always fall after the Lunar New Year. This year currency fell by 14.7% in February and a further 2.3% in March. Despite this, HK\$M1 recorded an increase of 2.4% during the month.

The growth of HK\$M2 and HK\$M3 both rose to 1.9% this month from 0.8% in February.

Note to Editor:

For further press enquiries, please contact the Press and Publications Section, Hong Kong Monetary Authority, on tel 2878 8261.

TABLE 1 : MONETARY STATISTICS - MARCH 1995

	Mar 1995	Earlier months (% change to Mar 1995)			(HK\$m)
		Feb 1995	Dec 1994 [#]	Mar 1994	
Money Supply					
M1 - HK\$	173,333	169,244 (2.4)	167,922 (3.2)	171,558 (1.0)	
Foreign currency	15,980	18,529 (-13.8)	17,415 (-8.2)	19,051 (-16.1)	
Total	189,313	187,773 (0.8)	185,337 (2.1)	190,609 (-0.7)	
M2 - HK\$@	1,135,137	1,114,306 (1.9)	1,094,754 (3.7)	950,529 (19.4)	
Foreign currency*	948,936	922,245 (2.9)	899,073 (5.5)	835,787 (13.5)	
Total	2,084,073	2,036,551 (2.3)	1,993,828 (4.5)	1,786,315 (16.7)	
M3 - HK\$@	1,152,903	1,131,942 (1.9)	1,111,779 (3.7)	967,405 (19.2)	
Foreign currency*	1,013,298	983,249 (3.1)	961,696 (5.4)	878,513 (15.3)	
Total	2,166,200	2,115,191 (2.4)	2,073,475 (4.5)	1,845,918 (17.4)	
Notes and coins in circulation	79,421	80,566 (-1.4)	78,143 (1.6)	77,767 (2.1)	
of which held by public	69,926	71,570 (-2.3)	67,783 (3.2)	67,804 (3.1)	
Total Deposits					
Total Demand deposits	119,387	116,203 (2.7)	117,554 (1.6)	122,805 (-2.8)	
Total Savings deposits	382,614	380,466 (0.6)	400,506 (-4.5)	401,573 (-4.7)	
Total Time deposits with licensed banks	1,469,834	1,425,592 (3.1)	1,366,274 (7.6)	1,164,915 (26.2)	
Total Time deposits with restricted licence banks	38,146	36,049 (5.8)	37,479 (1.8)	26,607 (43.4)	
Total Time deposits with deposit-taking companies	20,327	19,888 (2.2)	19,893 (2.2)	17,720 (14.7)	
HK\$ deposits@	1,053,789	1,031,587 (2.2)	1,015,796 (3.7)	879,416 (19.8)	
Demand deposits	103,407	97,674 (5.9)	100,139 (3.3)	103,754 (-0.3)	
Saving deposits	263,834	263,133 (0.3)	274,694 (-4.0)	270,554 (-2.5)	
Time deposits@	686,548	670,781 (2.4)	640,963 (7.1)	505,108 (35.9)	
US\$ deposits*	513,470	512,987 (0.1)	493,974 (3.9)	418,942 (22.6)	
Other foreign currency deposits*	463,051	433,623 (6.8)	431,936 (7.2)	435,262 (6.4)	
All deposits	2,030,309	1,978,198 (2.6)	1,941,706 (4.6)	1,733,620 (17.1)	
Foreign currency swap deposits	71,198	79,422 (-10.4)	103,805 (-31.4)	80,209 (-11.2)	
Total Loans and advances					
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	140,015	135,120 (3.6)	128,796 (8.7)	106,309 (31.7)	
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	13,573	13,404 (1.3)	12,660 (7.2)	10,624 (27.8)	
Other loans for use in H.K.	1,295,020	1,286,216 (0.7)	1,260,214 (2.8)	1,139,415 (13.7)	
Other loans for use outside H.K.	2,021,850	1,883,984 (7.3)	1,822,468 (10.9)	1,719,082 (17.6)	
Other loans where the place of use is not known	41,980	41,452 (1.3)	41,140 (2.0)	43,946 (-4.5)	
Loans in HK\$	1,146,274	1,134,172 (1.1)	1,119,378 (2.4)	1,011,843 (13.3)	
Loans in foreign currencies	2,366,165	2,226,004 (6.3)	2,145,900 (10.3)	2,007,533 (17.9)	
Total loans and advances	3,512,438	3,360,176 (4.5)	3,265,278 (7.6)	3,019,376 (16.3)	

* Adjusted to exclude foreign currency swap deposits.

@ Adjusted to include foreign currency swap deposits.

The figures have been revised to account for subsequent amendments reported by AIs.

Note : Data may not add up to total due to rounding.

TABLE 2 : QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR - MARCH 1995

<u>Sectors</u>	<u>Mar 1995</u>	<u>Earlier quarters</u> (Adjusted % change to Mar 1995)#		
		<u>Dec 1994@</u>	<u>Sep 1994</u>	<u>Mar 1994</u>
Manufacturing	91843	86,097 (6.7)	86,567 (12.0)	79,787 (21.5)
Transport and transport equipment	70996	71,712 (-1.0)	69,180 (1.0)	64,211 (8.9)
Building, construction, property development and investment	252997	246,346 (2.7)	213,722 (8.1)	192,356 (14.3)
Wholesale and retail trade	144397	138,615 (4.2)	118,869 (15.0)	107,901 (26.6)
Financial concerns *	171441	161,948 (5.9)	172,589 (6.1)	155,865 (20.2)
Individuals:				
to purchase flats in the Home Ownership Scheme and Private Sector Participation Scheme	40401	39,882 (1.3)	40,202 (0.5)	35,853 (12.7)
to purchase other residential property	261665	257,492 (1.6)	258,544 (3.0)	243,269 (9.6)
other purposes	110013	108,152 (1.7)	108,957 (5.1)	114,305 (0.2)
Others	151,267	149,970 (0.9)	155,549 (2.1)	145,868 (13.5)
Total	1295020	1,260,214 (2.8)	1,224,179 (5.9)	1,139,415 (13.7)

With the introduction of the new Return on Loans and Advance and Provisions (as revised from the Return on Loans and Advances for use in Hong Kong) as from December 1994, a number of AIs have reclassified certain components. As a result, the figures are not strictly comparable with those of previous quarters. The percentage changes given in the brackets have been adjusted, so far as possible, to remove the reclassification effect and therefore cannot be calculated directly from the published figures.

@ The figures have been revised to account for subsequent amendments reported by AIs.

* This excludes funds advanced to authorized institutions.

End/Friday, April 28, 1995

External trade figures for March

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Both re-exports and imports continued to increase substantially in March. Domestic exports also showed a notable increase. These are shown in the external trade figures for March released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

The value of total exports (comprising re-exports and domestic exports) increased by \$17.5 billion or 20% to \$104.6 billion in March. Within total exports, the value of re-exports, at \$86.9 billion in March, was \$15.8 billion or 22% higher than a year earlier. The value of domestic exports increased by \$1.7 billion or 11% over a year earlier to \$17.6 billion in March. Meanwhile, the value of imports increased by \$25.4 billion or 26% to \$121.6 billion.

As the value of total exports in March was smaller than that of total imports, a visible trade deficit of \$17.1 billion, equivalent to 14.0% of the value of imports, was recorded. This compared with a deficit of \$9.2 billion, equivalent to 9.5% of the value of imports, in March last year.

In the first quarter of 1995, the value of total exports grew by 20% over the same period last year. Amongst this, the value of re-exports rose by 22%, while that of domestic exports increased by 13%. The value of imports showed an increase of 27%. In the same period, a visible trade deficit of \$35.6 billion, equivalent to 11% of the value of imports, was recorded. This compared with a deficit of \$13.9 billion, equivalent to 5.4% of the value of imports, recorded in the first quarter of last year.

A Government spokesman commented that the good export performance in the first two months this year was sustained well into March. Of particular note was the significant growth in domestic exports for three consecutive months.

The spokesman however observed that the visible trade deficit widened in recent months. This was partly due to a further deterioration in the terms of trade, as the prices of imports continued to rise faster than those of exports. Also, it was due to a marked increase in retained imports, by 37% in value terms in the first quarter over a year earlier. The surge was prompted by the increase in domestic exports giving rise to a pick-up in industrial activity, as well as a sustained strong investment in capital equipment.

The table annexed presents the external trade figures in March.

A more detailed analysis of Hong Kong's external trade for March, by commodity and country, will be released in mid-May.

EXTERNAL TRADE FIGURES FOR MARCH 1995

MERCHANDISE: Domestic Exports :	\$17,645 million
Re-exports :	\$86,909 million
Total Exports :	\$104,554 million
Imports :	\$121,614 million
Trade balance :	-\$17,060 million

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Latest 3 months	Jan 95 to	Jan 94 to	Change	
	Mar 95	Mar 94	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	50,588	41,744	+5,843	+13.1
(% of Total Exports)	(17.4%)	(18.5%)		
Re-exports	240,068	197,257	+42,812	+21.7
Total Exports	290,656	242,001	+48,655	+20.1
Imports	326,263	255,920	+70,343	+27.5
Trade balance	-35,607	-13,919	-21,688	

Same month last year	March	March	Change	
	1995	1994	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	17,645	15,930	+1,716	+10.8
(% of Total Exports)	(16.9%)	(18.3%)		
Re-exports	86,909	71,120	+15,789	+22.2
Total Exports	104,554	87,050	+17,504	+20.1
Imports	121,614	96,238	+25,376	+26.4
Trade balance	-17,060	-9,188	-7,872	

Last month	March	February	Change	
	1995	1995	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	17,645	14,764	+2,881	+19.5
(% of Total Exports)	(16.9%)	(17.4%)		
Re-exports	86,909	70,016	+16,893	+24.1
Total Exports	104,554	84,781	+19,773	+23.3
Imports	121,614	99,706	+21,908	+22.0
Trade balance	-17,060	-14,925	-2,135	

Last 12 months	Apr 94 to	Apr 93 to	Change	
	Mar 95	Mar 94	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	227,935	219,061	+8,874	+4.1
(% of Total Exports)	(18.7%)	(20.6%)		
Re-exports	990,733	846,282	+144,451	+17.1
Total Exports	1,218,668	1,065,343	+153,325	+14.4
Imports	1,321,052	1,095,463	+225,589	+20.6
Trade balance	-102,384	-30,120	-72,264	

28 April 1995

CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

End/Friday, April 28, 1995

Last section of Route 5 proposed

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The Government is proposing to build and complete the last section of Route 5 between Shek Wai Kok and Chai Wan Kok in Tsuen Wan by 2003.

Route 5 is part of the New Territories Circular Road linking Sha Tin and Tsuen Wan. The section between Shek Wai Kok and Sha Tin had already been completed and had already been opened to traffic in April 1990.

The last section now being proposed starts at Cheung Pei Shan Road passing through Tsuen Kam Interchange with two underpasses.

It then goes westwards at grade, crosses the MTR tracks at the Tsuen Wan MTR Depot on viaduct near the present China Dyeing Works site and descends to join Castle Peak Road west of Tsuen King Circuit/Castle Peak Road junction.

The existing section of Castle Peak Road between Tsuen King Circuit and Tuen Mun Road will then be widened and upgraded to trunk road standard.

The total length of this dual two-lane carriageway trunk road to be built is two kilometres with slip roads provided to and from Tsuen Kam Interchange. A climbing lane is added to the eastbound carriageway on the flyover from Castle Peak Road to the hill side adjoining the MTR Depot.

This flyover, which cuts through the existing China Dyeing Works site and crosses over the MTR tracks, will be of prestressed concrete cellular box structures.

The lease-holder of the China Dyeing Works site has applied for permission to redevelop the site and the adjoining land as a comprehensive re-development for residential and commercial uses.

The Route 5 Flyover will pass through the site and will be enclosed within the podium of the proposed re-development. The section of the Route 5 Flyover within the site will be designed and constructed by the developer.

Route 5 was first considered in the late 1970s and the preliminary design commenced in 1981.

At present, traffic between Tuen Mun Road and Route 5 have to use the congested road network within Tsuen Wan.

The completion of the Lantau Fixed Crossing and the southern section of Route 3 in 1997 and the completion of the Country Park Section of Route 3 in 1998-99 will result in a greater demand of traffic between Tuen Mun Road and Route 5.

In order to release the overloading of the local road network in Tsuen Wan, it is essential that this section of Route 5 between Shek Wai Kok and Chai Wan Kok be completed by 2003.

A notice concerning the proposed works on the last section of Route 5 was gazetted today (Friday).

The Plans showing the extent of the proposed works together with a scheme description can be seen at the following government offices:

- * the Central and Western District Office, Public Enquiry Service Centre, ground floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.
- * the Tsuen Wan District Office, first and second floors, Tsuen Wan Station Multistorey Carpark Building, 174-208 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories; and
- * the Tsuen Wan District Lands Office, 10th floor, Tsuen Wan Station Multistorey Carpark Building, 174-208 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories.

Any person who wishes to object to the works or the use, or both, is required to address his objection in writing to the Secretary for Transport on or before June 27 this year.

End/Friday, April 28, 1995

Computer system to issue entry permits for Macau visitor

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The Immigration Department announced today (Friday) the implementation of a computer system to automate the production of entry permits for Macau visitors.

It is another new computer system under the department's Information Systems Strategy following the automation of the issue of entry permits to Taiwan visitors implemented in January. Several other systems will come on stream by phases later this year to automate the processing of other types of applications handled by the department.

"Under the new system, entry permits for Macau visitors will be printed by the computer. New format of permits will be issued for applications received by the department on or after April 28, 1995. These new permits will be issued on an 'one permit for one person' basis and will not cater for the inclusion of children," a spokesman for the Immigration Department said.

"Similar to the existing permits which enable the holder to make multiple visits to Hong Kong, validity of the new multiple visit permits will also be two years and cost HK\$90. Old format of permits will remain acceptable within their validity.

"The new multiple visit permit will contain data page in a machine readable format to enable scanning by optical character recognition (OCR) readers at immigration control points at a later stage in September 1995.

"It will also contain the digitised facsimile of the holder's photograph to facilitate the authentication of holder's identity and to eliminate unlawful alteration. New application forms are available at the Information Office of the Immigration Department," the spokesman added.

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Eating nutritious breakfast a healthy lifestyle practice

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Hong Kong people should practise the healthy lifestyle of eating nutritious breakfast as this meal is an important one to provide a substantial proportion of nutrients and energy for morning activity.

The call was made by Director of Health, Dr Margaret Chan, at the Hong Kong Breakfast Week's Breakfast Nutrition Seminar today (Friday).

Dr Chan said: "Studies show that the consumption of breakfast is more likely to be associated with more favourable blood lipid levels and lower body mass index.

"Other studies conducted on school children also indicate improvement in school work following the consumption of an adequate breakfast.

"In spite of all these good points about breakfast, local studies however show that many adults and children in Hong Kong are not eating breakfast," Dr Chan said.

Dr Chan pointed out that skipping breakfast could lead to reduced intake of key vitamins, minerals and trace elements which were essential in maintenance of health and might not be compensated in other meals of the day.

Noting that there were limitations and restriction on the choice of healthy food when eating away from home, she said such a habit would often lead to consumption of high fat, high cholesterol foods and lack of fibre intake.

Dr Chan said an unbalanced diet could be a major contributing factor in the increases in chronic diseases like diabetes and heart diseases.

Dr Chan stressed that every one should play one's role to keep healthy by eating nutritious breakfast everyday.

The Hong Kong Breakfast Week is jointly launched by the Department of Health and Kellogg Company to raise public awareness of the importance of breakfast nutrition.

Bearing the theme of "Healthy Breakfast for the Happy Family", the breakfast week includes a series of ongoing health and education programmes from today (Friday) till May 7.

A breakfast exhibition will be staged on the ground floor of Kowloon City Plaza tomorrow (Saturday). Visitors to the exhibition can participate in the interactive educational games focusing on nutrition.

Four double-decker buses will be taking the messages about nutrition on the road tomorrow (Saturday). Passers-by are invited to board these buses and obtain information on nutritious breakfast.

The Department of Health's Maternal and Child Health Centre in Shau Kei Wan and Fanling will hold nutrition seminars for clients on Monday (May 1) and Friday (May 5) respectively.

As a grand finale to the week-long programme, a two-day funfair and exhibition will be held at Times Square on May 6 and 7.

End/Friday, April 28, 1995

Draft Shek Kip Mei Outline Zoning Plan amended

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The Town Planning Board today (Friday) announced amendments to the draft Shek Kip Mei Outline Zoning Plan (OZP).

The amendments are proposed to meet an objection to the planning restrictions imposed on a site zoned "Other Specified Uses" (OU) annotated "Commercial Uses including a Public Transport Terminus, Multi-Storey Carpark, Post Office" on the draft Shek Kip Mei OZP (No. S/K4/4) which was gazetted on December 24, 1993.

The site has an area of 2.06 hectares and is located at Tat Chee Avenue between the City University of Hong Kong and the Kowloon Tong Railway Station.

The amendments include dividing the OU zone into three sub-areas with different restrictions on maximum building heights. The six-storey restriction is deleted and the maximum building heights for the three sub-areas have been incorporated, taking into account the restrictions under the Hong Kong Airport (Control of Obstructions) Ordinance.

Meanwhile, 'Private Club' use in the Notes of this zone is moved from Column 2 to Column 1.

The proposed amendments are available for public inspection until May 11 during normal office hours at:

- * Planning Department,
16th floor, Murray Building,
Garden Road,
Hong Kong.

- * Kowloon District Planning Office,
11th floor, Leighton Centre,
Leighton Road,
Hong Kong; and

- * Sham Shui Po District Office,
sixth floor,
Un Chau Street,
Kowloon.

Any person who has land held under lease, tenancy or permit from the Crown for a term exceeding five years and is affected by the amendments may send written objection to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Planning Department, 13th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong on or before May 11.

End/Friday, April 28, 1995

Government proposes roadworks for Lantau Port Development

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The Government proposes constructing a road link between the Yam O interchange of North Lantau Expressway and Container Terminals Nos 10 and 11, and the roads to the serviced land and back-up areas.

The proposed works include construction of roads, bridges and associated drainage works in connection with the Lantau Port Development - Stage I.

Plans and scheme showing the proposed roadworks can be seen at the following locations:-

- * Central and Western District Office,
Public Enquiry Service Centre,
Ground floor,
Harbour Building,
38 Pier Road,
Central;

- * Islands District Office,
20th floor,
Harbour Building,
38 Pier Road,
Central;

- * Tsuen Wan District Office,
First floor,
Tsuen Wan Station Multi-storey
Carpark Building,
174-208 Castle Peak Road,
Tsuen Wan;

- * District Lands Office, Islands,
19th floor,
Harbour Building,
38 Pier Road,
Central;

- * District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan,
10th floor,
Tsuen Wan Station Multi-storey
Carpark Building,
174-208 Castle Peak Road,
Tsuen Wan.

Any person who wishes to object to the works or the use may send his objection in writing to the Secretary for Transport not later than June 27, 1995, describing his interest and the manner in which he alleges he will be affected by the works or the use.

End/Friday, April 28, 1995

Approach lighting for new airport approved

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The Government has given authorisation for the Provisional Airport Authority to construct approach lighting for the southern runway of the new airport at Chek Lap Kok.

The area required for the western approach to the runway requires an additional area of about 4.32 hectares to the west of the areas previously authorised for the new airport and related development. The work in the additional area will start in December this year for completion in about one year.

The extent of the area affected is described in a notice of authorisation in the Gazette today (Friday).

The notice (in both English and Chinese) together with its related plan can be seen at the Lands Department Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, and at the Islands District Office, 20th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.

Any person who considers that his interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and sea-bed involved will be affected by the above undertaking may send to the Director of Lands a written claim for compensation before April 28, 1996.

He should state in his submission the sum of money which he is willing to accept in full and final settlement of his claim and should submit particulars to substantiate his claim.

End/Friday, April 28, 1995

So Kwun Wat Road to be upgraded and realigned

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The developer of a residential and commercial project in So Kwun Wat will upgrade and realign a section of So Kwun Wat Road and to construct a new road to cater for future traffic load.

The new road will be formed to alleviate the local traffic flow and to provide an emergency access to the development. This road scheme was gazetted on April 23, 1993, but amendment has been made to the road design at the junction of Castle Peak Road and So Kwun Wat Road.

Throughout the road construction period, the existing So Kwun Wat Road will be kept in service until its upgraded section is completed to the satisfaction of the Government. The existing section of So Kwun Wat Road will then be closed and the traffic will be diverted to the new upgraded section.

All the works are to be constructed at the expenses of the developer and be handed back to Government upon completion for maintenance.

A notice for the proposed works is published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

A plan showing the proposed works can be seen at the following locations:

- * Central and Western District Office,
Public Enquiry Services Centre,
ground floor,
Harbour Building,
38 Pier Road,
Central;

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Induction course for new immigrant children

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The Deputy Director of Education, Miss Elaine Chung, today (Friday) visited a centre operated by a voluntary agency to see for herself how an induction programme for new immigrant children is conducted.

The centre at Ping Shan, New Territories, is run by the New Territories Assemblies of God Church.

The four-week induction programme, funded by the Education Department, is run by non-profit-making voluntary agencies at various centres throughout the territory to provide educational support for new immigrant children from China aged between six and 15 who have arrived in Hong Kong for less than six months.

Miss Chung noted that the course is also aimed at helping these children to adapt to the local and social environment, providing inductive learning of Cantonese and the English language and giving them homework guidance.

The course informs participants the rules and regulations in school and the community, and the use of public amenities and public transport. It also helps participants to learn the original complex Chinese form characters, some basic English and study skills.

During her visit, Miss Chung was impressed by the children's active participation and their devotion of the teachers.

Miss Chung also paid tribute to the other 17 voluntary agencies which gave support to the department in running the courses.

Parents of new immigrant children from China who wish to attend the induction course may contact the voluntary organisations in their district.

Leaflets containing addresses and telephone numbers of these organisations are available at District Education Offices, District Offices and the District Social Welfare Office.

End/Friday, April 28, 1995

Students to see the world of work

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Secondary school students will be able to see for themselves the real working environment in the private and public sectors in the "Visits to Work Places" programme organised by the Labour Department's Careers Advisory Service (CAS).

"The programme aims at helping secondary school students gain a better understanding of the world of work so that they can make better plans for their future," Senior Labour Officer Mrs Ada Leung said today (Friday).

A group of 20 students visited the Mass Transit Railway Corporation this morning under the programme.

They were guided round the company and briefed on the organisation, nature of work, training opportunities, employment terms and careers prospects of the company.

"A series of visits will be organised in May until early June for some 700 Secondary 4 to Secondary 7 students from 24 schools," Mrs Leung said.

They will be visiting hotels, banks, public utility companies, hospitals, training institutes, other private companies and government departments.

"We hope that through visits to various establishments, students can obtain first-hand information on different careers," Mrs Leung said.

The CAS also provides information for schools to organise their own visits to workplaces so that more students can benefit from this kind of activity.

Moreover, the CAS organises a variety of careers education programmes, including annual exhibitions, quizzes and seminars.

Mrs Leung said young people wishing to choose a career best suited to their talents, interest and abilities could visit the two Careers Information Centres at Southorn Centre in Wan Chai and Mong Kok Government Offices.

"Each information centre has a reference library, an audio-visual unit with slide presentation, cassette recordings and video tapes on careers.

"They also provide free enquiry service for young people seeking information on careers and training," she said.

End/Friday, April 28, 1995

Order for removal of grave gazetted

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The Government gazetted today (Friday) an order for the removal of a twin clan grave at Nim Wan for the construction of the West New Territories (WENT Landfill).

The order has been made as a last resort to enable the landfill construction work to proceed following the failure of negotiations since December 1991 with the Tang clan to produce an agreement for voluntary removal.

A government spokesman said: "The Government respects the customs of indigenous villagers and recognises the importance of the issue to them. We have offered to make ex-gratia payment of about \$1.7 million to enable the villagers to relocate the grave.

"We have also offered to discuss with them the relocation of the grave to an alternative site. But, we have not been able to reach agreement at the many meetings we have since 1991.

"The contractors have already deferred occupation of that part of the site where the grave is located three times. Further delay is now impossible."

The spokesman said WENT is a strategic landfill which will take care of Hong Kong's refuse disposal needs in the next 25 years. It was chosen after a careful and extensive site search.

"There is no alternative site and the WENT Landfill is essential to providing sufficient refuse disposal facilities. The capacity of the WENT Landfill would be reduced by one-third if we were unable to remove the grave.

"It is estimated that the cost of having to provide another landfill to make up for the loss of capacity would amount to \$1.14 billion."

The spokesman emphasised that the Government would like to come to an agreement for voluntary removal, as has been done in many other cases and is prepared to hold further discussions with the villagers.

"But, time is running out and as a last resort the Government has to execute the order in the interest of the public," the spokesman said.

The order gazetted today is made under Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance.

End/Friday, April 28, 1995

Certificate presented to Architectural Services Department

The Architectural Services Department was today (Friday) presented an ISO 9001 certificate issued by the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Association (HKQAA) in recognition of the development of an approved Quality Management System by the department.

The Director of Architectural Services, Mr Kenneth Chan was very pleased that it only took the department two years to complete in 1994 the mammoth task of adopting the procedures required under ISO 9001.

"We are very proud to have developed a unique system by ourselves without resorting to any external assistance.

"This would not have been possible without the active involvement of all of my staff in the development, implementation and audit processes as well as in the training programmes," he said.

Noting that improving quality was the trend in the construction industry worldwide, Mr Chan said the Architectural Services Department approach had resulted in:

- * improved buildings and facilities;
- * better value for money;
- * improved performance and programmes;
- * a more accountable and open management approach; and
- * setting standards for others to follow.

Mr Chan added that the introduction and certification of Quality Management was a sign of his department's continuing professional development and commitment to both its clients and the general public.

The certification was being obtained in four stages. The first two stages for facilities development and facilities upkeep were certified on April 13 by the HKQAA while the remaining two stages for advisory services and consultants and contractors were being planned for certification in 1996.

End/Friday, April 28, 1995

Insurance and retirement scheme report

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The Chinese version of the Annual Report 1994 of the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and the Registrar of Occupational Retirement Scheme has been published.

This is the second time the annual report is also published in Chinese. The English version has already been published in March.

Copies of the Chinese version of the report, at \$56 each, are on sale at the Government Publications Centre at Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

End/Friday, April 28 1995

Hong Kong Property Review 1995

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The Rating and Valuation Department has now published the Hong Kong Property Review 1995.

This bilingual publication presents a comprehensive summary of the Hong Kong property market in 1994 in terms of stock, supply, take-up, vacancy, rents and prices for the main property sectors. Forecasts of supply in 1995 and 1996 are also included.

In a continuing effort to present data to illustrate the effects of emerging trends in property, this edition incorporates information on the Industrial-Office (I/O) sector.

For interest, pie charts showing the age distribution of domestic and flatted factory stock have also been added.

A further addition is a table showing average yields for the major property sectors.

The Hong Kong Property Review 1995, priced \$150 a copy, is available for sale from today (Friday) at the Government Publications Centre, Ground Floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Enquiries concerning this publication should be directed to the department's Technical Secretary (Information) at 2805 7614

End/Friday, April 28, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
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Opening balance in the account	2,463	0930	+13
Closing balance in the account	3,186	1000	+13
Change attributable to :		1100	+13
Money market activity	+121	1200	-27
LAF today	+602	1500	+123
		1600	+121

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 118.4 *-0.1* 28.4.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.94	19 months	2611	6.90	100.58	6.60
1 month	5.83	22 months	2702	7.50	101.52	6.70
3 months	5.91	30 months	3710	7.25	100.82	7.01
6 months	6.06	36 months	3804	6.90	99.56	7.19
12 months	6.27	59 months	5003	7.75	100.54	7.76

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$37,270 million

Closed April 28, 1995

End/Friday, April 28, 1995