



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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More data on nuclear power plant incidents sought

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In reply to press enquiries on media reports about the operation procedures of the Daya Bay Nuclear Power Plant, a government spokesman said today (Saturday) that the authorities will try to obtain more information on the incidents from the Hong Kong Nuclear Investment Company Limited.

"We understand that the company is making inquiries into the incidents and we are awaiting a report from them," he said.

The Guangdong authorities have made arrangements with the Hong Kong government to notify Hong Kong immediately of any incident at the plant which may have a radiological impact beyond the site boundary of the plant.

These arrangements cover the sharing of information necessary for both sides to plan and implement counter-measures quickly and effectively.

End

Enforcement of intellectual property forum

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The Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department will host a seminar on the enforcement of intellectual property rights to be participated by delegates from customs administrations of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) in the Asia Pacific Region.

The five-day seminar, from Monday to Friday (January 22 to 26), will be held in the Vocational Training Council Tower, Wan Chai. The Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Lawrence Li, will officiate at the opening ceremony on Monday morning.

The seminar is organised by WCO with full financial support from the Customs Administration of Japan.

Hong Kong Customs is chosen as the host because of its long history of enforcement against infringement of intellectual property rights and remarkable successes in this area.

The seminar is designed to provide a forum for customs officials within the Asia and Pacific Region who specialise in the subject field to discuss matters of concern and exchange views with regard to customs enforcement work in the protection of intellectual property rights.

A total of 22 delegates from 18 countries or territories including Hong Kong will participate in the seminar which will also be joined by 17 representatives from the business community or intellectual property right associations.

These business representatives will voice in the seminar their concern on the protection of intellectual property rights and to present their views on the infringement situation on the market.

It is expected that through this seminar, customs administration in the region will have a better understanding of the respective enforcement roles among themselves and to establish a closer working relationship with the business community.

The successful launch of the seminar signifies the effort of WCO and the commitment of individual customs administrations in the region in fostering international co-operation.

End

Wan Chai sets example in giving HK a greener look

The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, said today (Saturday) that the Government is committed to promoting public awareness in environmental protection and providing a better and greener environment for Hong Kong.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark the planting of the 700th tree in the Green Wan Chai Project organised by the Wan Chai District Board, Mrs Chan said it was Government's policy to encourage the creation of less waste and the recycling of resources.

"As at September 1995, the Environment and Conservation Fund has allocated \$16 million to various district organisations to conduct 84 community educational and research programmes.

"The first environmental protection resources centre run by district organisations will be set up in Tsuen Wan by the end of this year," Mrs Chan said.

"Over the past 20 years, the Government has designated over 40,000 hectares of land as 21 country parks and 14 special areas, representing 40 per cent of the total land area in Hong Kong.

"We will continue with our efforts in that respect by expanding the country parks and special areas and by improving their management."

Mrs Chan said she was impressed by the achievements made by the Wan Chai District in promoting environmental protection and improvement.

Since the Green Wan Chai Project started in 1989, almost 700 trees have been planted on pavement, central road dividers and road sides in the district.

"I hope the efforts made by Wan Chai in this respect will set an example for other districts," she said.

Other guests attending the ceremony included the Director of Home Affairs, Mrs Shelley Lau; Chairlady of Wan Chai District Board, Mrs Peggy Lam; District Officer (Wan Chai), Mrs Karen Pong and Chairman of the Environmental Improvement Committee of the Wan Chai District Board, Mr Wong Hon-ching.

Mrs Chan planted a three-metre Khaya Mahogany on the pavement outside Lockhart Road Playground at today's ceremony.

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Training courses for health care workers

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The Social Welfare Department (SWD), in conjunction with three professional health care training institutes, is organising a series of training courses to meet the demand for health care staff in residential care homes for the elderly.

The training courses are organised with a view to improving the quality of service of personnel in residential care homes for the elderly, a spokesman for the department said today (Saturday).

The three institutes are the College of Nursing, Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Red Cross and the Hong Kong St John Ambulance Association. The first course will commence on April 9.

"Under the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Regulation, all health workers are required, among other things, to complete training approved by the Director of Social Welfare before being qualified for registration.

"The 11-week course, covering a total of 140 training hours, is designed to equip trainees with the necessary knowledge and skills for a comprehensive understanding of health care for elderly persons.

"The content of the course includes lectures on basic nursing skills for elderly persons, physiological and psychological development and common medical conditions of the elderly, basic skills in interpersonal relationship, communication and management of residential care homes for the elderly," the spokesman said.

Hong Kong residents who have completed Form 3 or equivalent and are competent to complete the training course can apply. Priority will be given to those who have two or more years of working experience in services for the elderly, and those who have received medical, nursing, first aid or home nursing training.

Letters have already been sent to elderly home operators, inviting them to recommend suitable candidates for the course. Posters of the training courses will also be put up at all public housing estates and Group Work Units of SWD.

Individuals who are interested in taking up a job in elderly homes may obtain an application form from any of the three institutes or SWD's Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly at Room 2354, 23rd floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai.

Enquiries can be directed to the licensing office on 2961 7220 or 2961 7221. The deadline for application is February 16 (Friday).

End

Youngsters take anti-drug message to the streets

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Over 400 representatives from 20 voluntary agencies, local groups, primary and secondary schools in Kowloon City as well as popular singers took to the streets in Kowloon City to spread the message of "together we can beat drugs" in a parade this (Saturday) afternoon.

The parade, starting at the Kowloon Tsai Park, was organised with a view to encourage the active involvement of local organisations and to arouse residents' awareness of the ill effects of taking drugs.

Targeted at youngsters, the event was also designed to help them cultivate their self-esteem and promote a better understanding and appreciation in leading a healthy drug-free life.

Displaying their anti-drug slogans to compete for the best parade team and best promotion team prizes, the parade participants walked along Inverness Road, Grampian Road, Junction Road and Carpenter Road until they reached the Carpenter Road Playground.

The parade was jointly organised by the Kowloon City District Fight Crime Committee (KCDFCC), the Kowloon City District Office, the Kowloon City District Board, the Kowloon City Police District, the Lions Club International - District 303 (Hong Kong and Macau), the Action Committee Against Narcotics and the Urban Council.

A variety show featuring lion dance, performance by Junior Police Call band, trick cycling skills, Tae Kwon Do and singing was staged after the parade.

As a follow-up to today's event, KCDFCC will stage a Kowloon City District drug awareness promotion night at 8.30 pm on TVB Jade next Saturday (January 27) and later a best anti-drug promotion project among students in the district.

In the past two years, the committee has organised a wide range of activities to address the problems of teenage drug abuse, such as beat drugs training programmes and seminars, and an inter-school Drug-wise Package quiz competition.

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Blankets distributed to street-sleepers

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A total of 63 blankets was distributed to 50 street-sleepers - 35 in New Territories East and 15 in New Territories West - by Social Welfare Department staff last (Friday) night.

"It is a normal practice for the department to distribute blankets to street sleepers when the temperature drops to or near 10 degrees Celsius," a department spokesman said.

It was the third such exercise since this winter.

End

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	2,344	09:30	-355
Closing balance in the account	1,664	10:00	-355
Change attributable to:		11:00	-355
Money market activity	-355	11:30	-355
LAF today	-325		

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 123.8 *+0.0* 20.1.96

End

Youth scheme serves 186,000 needy

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Around 2,060 young people have participated in planning and organising various community service projects under the 1995-96 Opportunities for Youth Scheme (OYS) which have served some 186,000 needy people all over the territory.

This was stated by the Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan, when he officiated at the OYS Award Presentation Ceremony and Project Exhibition at the Piazza of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre today (Sunday).

Mr Strachan said in the past 21 years, OYS had provided plenty of opportunities for young people to realise their ideals of serving the community, and at the same time, realising their personal and social development.

"In 1995-96, my department has allocated \$870,000 to support 131 service projects.

"Through their zealous and dedicated efforts, the participating youths have helped spread the message of a caring community here in Hong Kong," he said.

Noting that 1995 had been a year of special significance to young people because it was the 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Youth, Mr Strachan said over the past 10 years, many of the youth volunteers and members had grown up into mature and responsible young adults.

"However we do note the alarming trend of drug abuse among young people and other youth problems associated with the breakdown of marriage and families nowadays.

"Youth workers are well aware of the need to advise their youth groups to provide peer support services to the youth at risk.

"We need to reach out to all young people so that Hong Kong can be a better place in which to live and work," he added.

After the presentation ceremony, a youth involvement programme, comprising talent show, telematch and a quiz, was held to provide the participating youths an opportunity to share their experience in community service.

Also present today were Legislative Councillor Dr Law Chi-kwong and Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Youth and Rehabilitation), Mr Carlos Leung.

End

Land Registry releases 1995 statistics

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A total of 97,649 sale and purchase agreements of building units, including both residential and non-residential properties, have been received for registration in 1995, the Land Registry announced today (Sunday).

The figure represented a decrease of 15 per cent and 26.6 per cent as compared with 1994 and 1993 respectively.

The amount of considerations involved in these agreements was \$265.81 billion, down by 37.3 per cent and 23.8 per cent compared with 1994 and 1993 respectively.

During 1995, 112,212 assignments of building units were lodged for registration, showing a decrease of 18.6 per cent and 25.9 per cent as compared with 137,876 and 151,501 recorded during 1994 and 1993.

However, the total amount of the considerations involved, amounting to \$309.48 billion, indicates decreases of 22.2 per cent and 5.3 per cent respectively when compared with the two preceding years.

The total amount secured under mortgages (other than building mortgages) was \$76.8 billion, showing a decrease of 24.8 per cent and 26.2 per cent compared with 1994 and 1993 respectively.

The Land Registry also announced that searches of land records made by members of the public last year totalled 2,938,379, down by 15.6 per cent and 11.7 per cent compared with 1994 and 1993 respectively.

End

Yuen Long District Arts Festival caters for all

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The 13th Yuen Long District Arts Festival, featuring a week-long rich programme of cultural and recreational activities, has started today (Sunday).

Speaking at the festival's opening ceremony this evening, the Chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee, Mr Tang Ki-tat, expressed hope that the festival will not only help bring joy to residents in the district, but also create a more harmonious atmosphere.

He said the wide variety of programme activities will satisfy the different taste of residents from all walks of life.

Highlights of the festival include a popular concert by Linda Wong, Vivien Lai and Eric Sun; minority group dancing performances by the famous Guangdong Dance Troupe, Shenzhen China Folk Culture Villages Folk Dance Troupe; and an exhibition of antiques, Chinese painting and calligraphy.

Admission tickets for the shows, except for the concert on January 28, will be given out free on a first-come-first-served basis at the Yuen Long District Board Office, Yuen Long Town Hall and Tin Yiu Community Centre.

The festival was jointly organised by the 13th Yuen Long Arts Festival Co-ordinating Committee, Yuen Long District Board, Yuen Long District Arts Committee and Yuen Long Town Hall.

The festival, to end on January 28, will cost an estimated \$1.4 million. It is jointly sponsored by the Yuen Long District Board, the Regional Council and local organisations.

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Carnival promotes effective private building management

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The Government attaches great importance to effective management of private buildings and is actively assisting owners and tenants in this respect, Sham Shui Po District Officer, Mr John Leung Chi-yan, said today (Sunday).

Officiating at the Private Building Management Carnival 96, Mr Leung said buildings with management problems had been identified by the Sham Shui Po Building Management Co-ordination Committee (SSPBMCC).

The committee was set up by the Sham Shui Po District Office and comprising representatives from various government departments.

He said: "Staff from the Sham Shui Po District Office's Building Management Co-ordination team will soon visit these buildings and give advice to members of the mutual aid committees (MACs) or owners' corporations (OCs) on ways to tackle their respective problems."

According to Mr Leung, officers from other government departments, including the Fire Services, Buildings, Urban Services and the Police, would also conduct site visits and urge the management personnel to do the necessary improvement works.

Over 80 buildings in Sham Shui Po had so far been targeted, he said, noting that improvements were needed in respect of their management, security, maintenance, cleansing work and illegal structures problems.

"The SSPBMCC and the Sham Shui Po District Board's Housing Committee organises building management courses for MAC and OC members on a regular basis," he added.

"Professionals in the field are invited to speak on related issues at the building management seminar which is organised every year."

Concluding, Mr Leung called on owners and tenants to promote effective building management by co-operating closely on the daily management work.

The carnival was organised by the Sham Shui Po District Board's Private Premises Problems Working Group, with the assistance of SSPBMCC and sponsored by the Sham Shui Po District Board and the Urban Council.

The carnival, aimed at promoting the concept of modern building management among local residents and further their knowledge of related laws, featured singing performances, game stalls and an exhibition on building management.

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1995 annual stamp pack on sale

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The Postmaster General, Mr Robert Footman, announced today (Sunday) that the 1995 annual stamp pack will be placed on sale at all post offices from Wednesday (January 24).

The pack contains one set each of the following special stamps issued in 1995 -

Year of the Pig (souvenir sheet)

Hong Kong International Sporting Events

Hong Kong Rural Heritage

The Royal Hong Kong Regiment

Hong Kong Movie Stars

The pack, available at \$98, is ideal both as a gift and for personal collection. A restriction of not more than two packs per customer queuing will be imposed on Wednesday.

End