



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THE INFORMATION BULLETIN IS PUBLISHED BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND SURVEYING
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT

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Charging royalty on advertising revenue appropriate

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A spokesman for the Broadcasting, Culture and Sport Branch today (Friday) rejected TVB's claim that there was no longer any basis for charging royalty on advertising revenue earned by the commercial television broadcasters.

He said the privilege enjoyed by TVB and ATV of broadcasting directly to viewers made their licence far more valuable than those for other television services.

"Broadcast frequencies provide the most cost-effective way for television licensees to reach their viewers and generate advertising revenue.

"Since TVB and ATV enjoy the exclusive right to make use of the limited broadcast frequencies available, it is entirely appropriate that they should pay higher royalties than licensees who are not permitted to use broadcast frequencies," he added.

The spokesman further pointed out that the reduction in royalty rates proposed by the Government would result in a substantial reduction for both TVB and ATV, who had already benefited from a cut in 1993.

End

Criticism of Architectural Services Department not justified

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In response to media enquiries concerning earlier criticism of the Architectural Services Department with regard to Urban Council capital projects, a department spokesman said today (Friday):

"The Architectural Services Department does not accept that there exists a lack of supervision or monitoring of contractors and consultants, or in the supervision of the progress of works under construction. The specific case of the Jordan Valley Swimming Pool project which was mentioned by councillors has proceeded more slowly than anticipated partly due to the main contractor's financial difficulties, and also because of inclement weather and variations to works after construction had started which were necessary and which are not abnormal during the course of construction of capital works.

"Monthly site meetings attended by architects from this department were held throughout the construction period, and since November 1995 special efforts have been made to monitor the performance of the contractor with bi-weekly meetings and additional special meetings with the contractor to try and ensure that the pools are completed and ready for public use this summer.

"Ninety-eight per cent of the work has now been completed and a special arrangement will be made to ensure the opening of the pools in mid August 1996. The problems experienced by the contractor are not unusual in the construction industry.

"There are currently 43 Urban Council projects under construction of which only eight or 19 per cent are behind schedule. This is a reasonable figure which for the Urban Council mirrors the Department's general programme for the rest of the Government.

"Whilst the delay in the Jordan Valley Swimming Pool project is unfortunate, supervision and monitoring of the contractor has always been strictly in accordance with the contract and there has been no dereliction of duty on the part of members of this department.

"Under the Memorandum of Administrative Arrangements between the Government and the Urban Council, a figure of 16 per cent is charged based on the construction cost of projects for the work of various government agencies. This covers not only the work of Architectural Services Department in designing, supervising and constructing projects, and arranging maintenance works, but also the work of other departments such as Buildings Department, Lands Department, and Legal Department.

"It also covers the processing of tenders through the Central and Public Works tender boards, and accounting procedures for monitoring and paying for the works. Architectural Services Department also provide technical advice on potential projects without charge.

"The 16 per cent is an agreed charge and is designed to recover the costs of work performed, not to make a profit. A recent calculation indicated that for small Urban Council projects, the actual cost to Architectural Services Department is as high as 23 per cent. However, there is no intention to change the basis of the charge as this is considered a reasonable average for the work performed.

"While Urban Councillors may feel that they can obtain cheaper services by employing consultants, they may not realise that a special section will have to be set up in Urban Services Department to monitor and supervise the consultants, and they will still need the additional services mentioned above, which will then have to be charged separately.

"Consultants will be needed not only for architectural services, but also for structural, building services, quantity surveying, site supervision and project management.

"In the long run, it is unlikely that any overall saving can be achieved by employing consultants, and Urban Council will lose the expertise of the government's building agency which constructs all other buildings for Government and thereby has a wealth of professional and specialist experience from other projects that can be brought to bear on Urban Council projects as well.

"The Department accepts that difficulties can occur during construction of projects. Most of these can be foreseen or overcome quickly but some are sometimes out of both its own and the contractor's control and it is then a question of finding the right solution and minimising delays.

"While the Architectural Services Department regrets any delays to projects, and is always constantly striving to improve its services to the public, it feels that it has made its best efforts to overcome difficulties and meet schedules in the Jordan Valley Swimming Pool project, and using one single project as a general criticism of all the department's services is unfair and unwarranted..

"The Department would welcome the opportunity to meet Urban Councillors to review the system and explain the position both in regard to the Jordan Valley Swimming Pool, and regarding the Capital Works Programme in general."

End

Application for HCFCs free quota invited

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The Gazette today (Friday) published a notice inviting applications for phase II allocation of free quotas for the retained imports of 34 types of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) for the year.

"To protect the ozone layer and to meet the requirements of the Montreal Protocol, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is implementing a quota system to control the local consumption of HCFCs," Senior Environmental Protection Officer, Mr Chan Mai, said.

"According to the latest adjustment of the protocol, the ozone depleting HCFCs used in Hong Kong in 1996 should be no more than the equivalent of 2,526 tonnes of HCFC-22 (the most commonly used HCFC).

"The consumption level of HCFCs would be further reduced in phases to zero in the year 2030," he said.

Importers with proven records of retained imports of HCFCs are allocated with normal quotas while new traders and end-users who wish to import HCFCs directly from abroad are allocated with 50 per cent of the free quota available in the phase I allocation.

To cater for the subsequent needs of all traders and end-users, the remaining 50 per cent of free quota will be allocated in the phase II allocation.

However, normal quota holder who has transferred out 10 per cent or more of his holding in 1996 shall not be eligible to apply.

Applications for phase II free quotas should be submitted in person by August 9 to EPD's Air Management Group on 33rd floor, Revenue Tower at 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai. Late applications will not be accepted.

Application forms and further details regarding the quota system can be obtained from the above address or by telephoning 2594 6242 or 2594 6243.

End

1997 Lunar New Year fireworks display approved

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The Fireworks Vetting Committee has endorsed the application from Guangdong Enterprises (Holdings) Limited to stage a fireworks display of about 23 minutes during the Lunar New Year in 1997, a spokesman for the Broadcasting, Culture and Sport Branch announced today (Friday).

The display will be staged over Victoria Harbour from 8 pm on Saturday, February 8, 1997, the second day of the Lunar New Year.

In case of inclement weather, the display will be postponed to the following day - the third day of the Lunar New Year.

The coming display will be the 16th Lunar New Year fireworks display sponsored by the private sector since 1982. As on similar previous occasions, the Urban Council will co-organise the event.

"We are delighted that with this sponsorship, the community will once again be able to enjoy the spectacle of a fireworks display during the Lunar New Year festivities," the spokesman said.

End

98 new adjudicators of Obscene Articles Tribunal appointed

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The Chief Justice has appointed a total of 98 members to the panel of adjudicators of the Obscene Articles Tribunal (OAT) and the appointments were gazetted today (Friday), a spokesman for the Judiciary said. Of the new appointees, 60 are female and 38 male. After the addition, the enlarged panel will have a total of 174 adjudicators comprising 98 male and 76 female members.

On their age profile, about half of them aged between 21 to 40 and the other half from 41 to 60.

Nominated by the Broadcasting, Culture and Sport Branch, the adjudicators come from a wide cross-section of the community and different professions.

They include administrators, managers, teachers, professionals, technicians, blue collar workers, social workers, arts-related and media workers to housewives and students.

The tenure of the new members will be for a period of three years which took effect today, the spokesman said.

End

Energy Advisory Committee chairman appointed

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Professor Charles Kao Kuen has been appointed as Chairman of the newly formed Energy Advisory Committee, which will advise the Government on energy policy matters.

Professor Kao, an electronics engineer by profession, has received numerous scientific and technical awards for his work in fibre optics from academic and other institutions around the world. He will retire shortly as Vice-chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, a position he has held since October 1987.

Commenting on the appointment, the Secretary for Economic Services, Mr Stephen Ip, said he was very pleased that Professor Kao had agreed to chair the committee.

"Professor Kao is a distinguished scientist, engineer and administrator with a wealth of knowledge and experience to call upon in leading a committee to advise the Government on energy policy," he said. Joining Professor Kao as members will be 13 other non-official members, including experts in the energy field, representatives of the business sector and the Consumer Council and community personalities. The Secretary for Economic Services, the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands and the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services will also be members of the new committee.

The Government's intention to establish an Energy Advisory Committee was announced on February 12 in response to the report of the Consumer Council on competition in the domestic water heating and cooking fuel market.

The terms of reference of the Committee are to advise the Government on energy policy, including policy matters concerning energy supply and demand and energy conservation and efficiency, and other related matters referred to it by the Administration.

The full membership of the committee is as follows:

Chairman: Professor Charles Kao Kuen

Members: Mr Michael Corbyn
Mr Jim Dale
Professor Peter Hills
Dr Joseph Choi Lam
Mr Lam Wai-kwun
Mr Dennis Lau Wing-kwong

Mr Edmund Leung Kwong-ho
Dr Ng Cho-nam
Mr Otto Poon Lok-to
Mr Clement Tao Kwok-lau
Dr Tsang Shu-ki
Mr Justein Wong Chun
Mr Wong Kai-man
Secretary for Economic Services or representative Secretary for
Planning, Environment and Lands or representative Director of
Electrical and Mechanical Services or representative

The appointments, which are for a two-year term from July 15, are published in the Gazette today (Friday).

End

1,264 sites checked in special industrial safety drive

* * * * *

More than 110 factory inspectors of the Labour Department involved in the territory-wide special industrial safety operation checked 396 more construction sites in the past week. The total number of sites inspected so far reached 1,264.

A total of 117 summonses would be issued to building contractors for breaching industrial safety laws as a result of the operation. The total number of summonses to be issued under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance has increased to 384 up to yesterday (Thursday).

The special task force comprising 10 factory inspectors inspected another 59 sites in the third week and recommended the issuing of 36 summonses.

Another 100 factory inspectors engaged in the special inspection exercises, which was completed yesterday, checked 337 more sites and recommended the issuing of 81 summonses.

The breaches detected over the third week related mainly to failing to provide suitable working platforms or scaffolds; failing to provide proper fencing of dangerous places; failing to ensure the use of personal protective equipment by workers and failing to provide adequate safety measures in the use of lifting appliances. These were similar to the previous two weeks' findings.

"Although the special inspection exercise has concluded for the time being, our factory inspectors will maintain regular inspections on building sites and carry out surprise checks at any time," a Labour Department spokesman said.

He urged the contractors and workers to observe the site safety laws and take all necessary safety measures.

End

Cross border shuttle bus services to be introduced

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In response to press enquiries about the Cross Border shuttle bus services, a spokesman for the Transport Department said today (Friday):

"The Shenzhen and Hong Kong authorities have positively worked together to introduce the shuttle bus service between Lok Ma Chau and Huanggang.

"The shuttle service will be operated by a joint-venture bus company which has already been formed by one each of Hong Kong-based and Shenzhen-based operator.

"The shuttle service will commence once certain formalities, such as those in relation to travel documents to be issued to the Chinese drivers, have been completed.

"All concerned parties have been working hard on the matter with a view to introducing the cross-border shuttle bus service between Lok Ma Chau and Huanggang earliest possible. "The shuttle bus service will provide an additional choice for cross border passengers.

"At present, passengers mainly use rail service to cross the border at Lo Wu Station which will remain the major border crossing point.

"Passenger flow at Lo Wu border is not particularly heavy in normal days. Although the flow is heavy during peak seasons, concerned government departments will deploy additional staff to cope with the demand. So far the arrangement has been working satisfactorily."

End

Board amends Tsuen Wan West Outline Zoning Plan

* * * * *

The Town Planning Board today (Friday) announced an amendment to the draft Tsuen Wan West Outline Zoning Plan.

The amendment is to incorporate an area of about 0.7 hectare which is covered by two existing nullahs into the 'comprehensive development area' zone in Sham Tseng, Tsuen Wan. The inclusion will facilitate the decking of the nullahs and thus improve the general physical environment of the area.

The amendment plan (No S/TWW/6) is available for public inspection until September 12 during normal office hours at:

- * Planning Department 16th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong;
- * Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing and Sham Shui Po District Planning Office 27th floor, Tsuen Wan Government Offices 38 Sai Lau Kok Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories; and
- * Tsuen Wan District Office first floor, Tsuen Wan Multi-Storey Carpark Building 174-208 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories.

Any person affected by the amendment plan may submit written objections to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Planning Department, 13th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong, before September 12.

Copies of the draft plan are on sale at the Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong and the Kowloon Map Sales Office, ground floor, 382 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

End

Employment and vacancy statistics for March

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According to the figures released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department, employment in all major service sectors increased in March 1996 compared with March 1995. Meanwhile, employment in the manufacturing sector remained on a downtrend, whereas employment at construction sites continued to register a notable year-on-year increase over the same period.

As labour supply became relatively more abundant, vacancies in the manufacturing sector and in the various service sectors surveyed recorded decreases of different magnitudes in March 1996 compared with March 1995. Vacancies at construction sites also dropped, after showing significant year-on-year increases for six consecutive quarters. Nevertheless, there were still around 48,900 vacancies in March 1996 for all major sectors surveyed taken together, somewhat higher than the 41,300 vacancies recorded in December 1995.

In terms of the number of persons engaged, the wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels sector was the largest, employing 1,027,000 persons in March 1996. This was followed by the financing, insurance, real estate and business services sector, with an employment of 378,800; the manufacturing sector, 351,500; the community, social and personal services sector, 302,800; and the transport, storage and communications sector, 175,200. Also, there were 68,800 manual workers at construction sites.

In terms of growth rate, employment at construction sites (for manual workers only) continued to show a notable increase, by 7.3% in March 1996 over March 1995. Employment also picked up in the transport, storage and communications sector, rising by 6.4%; the financing, insurance, real estate and business services sector, by 4.8%; and the community, social and personal services sector, by 1.9%. Employment in the wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels sector returned to a positive increase of 1.2%. On the other hand, employment in the manufacturing sector fell further, by 11.1%. The respective employment figures are shown in greater detail in Table 1.

As regards the vacancy situation in individual sectors, the wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels sector had the largest number of vacancies, at a level of 21,790 in March 1996. This was followed by the financing, insurance, real estate and business services sector, with 9,060 vacancies; the community, social and personal services sector, 7,720; the manufacturing sector, 5,930; and the transport, storage and communications sector, 3,450. Also, there were 940 vacancies for manual workers at construction sites. Job vacancy figures are shown in greater detail in Table 2.

Of the total of some 48,900 vacancies (other than those in the Civil Service) recorded in March 1996, the majority fell into four major occupation groups, viz. associate professionals; clerks; service workers and shop sales workers; and elementary occupations. They together accounted for over three-quarters of the total number of vacancies in all the major sectors surveyed. Vacancy figures broken down by major occupation group are shown in Table 3. As these figures are compiled starting from June 1995, year-on-year comparisons are not yet available.

The above statistics for March 1996 were derived from the Quarterly Survey of Employment and Vacancies, the Supplementary Survey of Job Vacancies and the Quarterly Employment Survey of Construction Sites conducted by the Department. In the former two surveys, some economic activities (e.g. those where self-employment are predominant, such as taxi operators, hawkers and freelance authors) are not covered and hence the respective employment and vacancy figures relate only to those selected industries included in the surveys. In the latter survey on the construction sites, employment and vacancy figures relate to manual workers only.

Detailed breakdowns of the above statistics are available from the Quarterly Report of Employment, Vacancies and Payroll Statistics, March 1996 and the Quarterly Report of Employment and Vacancies at Construction Sites, March 1996. They will be available at HK\$48 per copy and HK\$19 per copy (both exclusive of postage) respectively at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong and at the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department on the 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Table 1 : Employment figures and percentage changes by selected major sector

<u>Selected major sector</u>	<u>Persons engaged (employment)</u>			<u>Percentage change</u>	
	<u>Mar. 95</u>	<u>Dec. 95</u>	<u>Mar. 96</u>	<u>Mar. 96 over Mar. 95</u>	<u>Mar. 96 over Dec. 95</u>
Manufacturing	395 400	375 800	351 500	-11.1	-6.5
Construction sites (manual workers only)	64 100	68 500	68 800	+7.3	+0.4
Wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels	1 015 100	1 018 200	1 027 000	+1.2	+0.9
Transport, storage and communications	164 600	172 200	175 200	+6.4	+1.8
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	361 300	378 200	378 800	+4.8	+0.1
Community, social and personal services	297 200	302 000	302 800	+1.9	+0.3

Table 2 : Vacancy figures and percentage changes by selected major sector

<u>Selected major sector</u>	<u>Number of vacancies</u>			<u>Percentage change</u>	
	<u>Mar. 95</u>	<u>Dec. 95</u>	<u>Mar. 96</u>	<u>Mar. 96 over Mar. 95</u>	<u>Mar. 96 over Dec. 95</u>
Manufacturing	9 100	5 520	5 930	-34.9	+7.3
Construction sites (vacancies for manual workers only)	1 860	1 040	940	-49.5	-9.6
Wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels	27 810	17 710	21 790	-21.7	+23.0
Transport, storage and communications	3 780	2 310	3 450	-8.7	+49.6
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	10 600	7 390	9 060	-14.6	+22.5
Community, social and personal services	9 120	7 300	7 720	-15.3	+5.7

Table 3 : Vacancy figures and percentage distribution by major occupation group

<u>Major occupation group</u>	<u>Number of vacancies in March 1996</u>	<u>Percentage distribution (%)</u>
Managers and administrators	1 160	2.4
Professionals	3 480	7.1
Associate professionals	8 510	17.4
Clerks	11 630	23.8
Service workers and shop sales workers	11 210	22.9
Craft and related workers	2 590	5.3
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	3 630	7.4
Elementary occupations	6 690	13.7

End

Weather of June

* * * * *

Last month was the hottest June on record. The mean temperature of 28.8 degrees was the highest for the month of June and equalled the previous record set in 1977 and 1938.

The mean minimum temperature of 26.9 degrees and the mean maximum temperature of 31.2 degrees also ranked the third and seventh highest respectively for the month.

The monthly mean pressure of 1,008.8 hectopascals was the third highest for June with the dominance of the subtropical ridge over south China.

The total rainfall of 404 millimetres in the month was 28 millimetres above normal, making the accumulated rainfall since January 1 of 1,058.2 millimetres seven per cent above the normal for the same period.

The weather during the first week of the month was mainly fine with south to south-westerly winds.

On June 7, long sunny periods brought the temperature up to 33.2 degrees, the highest in the month. Winds turned easterly two days later and some brief but heavy showers occurred on the following morning.

However, sunny weather prevailed later during the day and temperatures rose to 33.2 degrees again on June 11.

Winds turned south-westerly that evening but backed to south-easterly on June 13 and it remained fine. The weather deteriorated the following day as showers and thunderstorms affected the territory in the afternoon. For the next two days, thundery weather continued with fresh gusty south-easterly winds.

The weather improved temporarily on June 17 with long sunny periods. It was cloudy again with some showers during the next three days. Winds turned more to the south and became fresh south-westerly on June 20.

A trough of low pressure formed across central China on June 19 and moved towards the south China coastal areas during the evening of June 21. It remained active and brought widespread heavy rain and thunderstorms to Hong Kong in the next few days.

Flash floods and minor landslides were reported on the early mornings of June 22 and 23. With overcast sky and almost continuous rain and showers during the day, temperatures dropped to 24.7 degrees on June 23, the lowest in the month.

Rain was heaviest on the early morning Of June 24 and flooding occurred in many places especially over the northern part of the New Territories.

Flood water was up to waist-deep in Sheung Shui and Fanling. About 90 hectares of farmland and many houses were inundated and agricultural loss was estimated at 3.5 million dollars.

Although rainfall generally decreased later that day, the northern part of the New Territories was again flooded in the early morning of June 25.

The weather, however, improved during the day as the trough of low pressure dissipated. Apart from some isolated thunderstorms early on June 28, the weather remained cloudy with isolated showers until the end of the month.

No tropical cyclones occurred in the western North Pacific and the South China Sea in the month. This is the first time since 1973 that the area was void of tropical cyclone activity in June.

Details of the issuance/hoisting and cancellation/lowering of various warnings/signals in the month are summarised in Table 1.1. Monthly meteorological figures and departures from normal of June are tabulated in Table 1.2.

Table 1.1 Warnings and signals in June

Warnings/Signals	Effective date and time
Landslip warning	Jun 22, 2315 - Jun 23, 1215
Flood warnings	Jun 15, 1330 - Jun 16, 1100 Jun 21, 2115 - Jun 22, 0145 Jun 22, 0600 - Jun 22, 1115 Jun 22, 2220 - Jun 23, 1000 Jun 24, 0415 - Jun 24, 1315 Jun 25, 0100 - Jun 25, 0445
Thunderstorm warnings	Jun 9, 0930 - Jun 9, 1330 Jun 14, 1130 - Jun 14, 1330 Jun 14, 1500 - Jun 14, 1815 Jun 14, 2130 - Jun 15, 0730 Jun 15, 1300 - Jun 16, 1800 Jun 21, 2005 - Jun 22, 1900 Jun 22, 2145 - Jun 23, 0730 Jun 24, 0500 - Jun 24, 1300 Jun 24, 2115 - Jun 25, 0700 Jun 27, 2300 - Jun 28, 0700 Jun 29, 1030 - Jun 29, 1230

Table 1.2 Figures and departures from normal - June

Total bright sunshine	192.1 hours; 31 hours above normal
Mean daily global solar radiation	16.5 MJ/SQM; 0.05 MJ/SQM below normal
Total rainfall	404 mm; 28 mm above normal
Mean cloud amount	70%; 5% below normal
Mean relative humidity	79%; 3% below normal
Mean daily maximum temperature	31.2 Degrees Celsius; 0.9 Degrees Celsius above normal
Mean air temperature	28.8 Degrees Celsius; 1 Degrees Celsius above normal
Mean daily minimum temperature	26.9 Degrees Celsius; 1 Degrees Celsius above normal
Mean dew point	24.7 Degrees Celsius; 0.3 Degrees Celsius above normal
Total evaporation	131.1 mm; 12.8 mm below normal

Remarks: All measurements were made at the Royal Observatory except sunshine, solar radiation evaporation which were recorded at King's Park.

End

Tenders invited for three architectural projects

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for the construction of a new rehabilitation block at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Kowloon.

The project will comprise the construction of a new four-storey extension block with a gross floor area of 3,350 square metres, and a link bridge connecting to the main hospital block, together with associated drainage and external works.

Works will commence in October for completion in September 1997.

Meanwhile, the department is also calling tenders for two separate projects which cover the conversion and extension works for a total of 12 existing aided schools.

Works for the schools will start in October 1996 for completion in August 1997.

Tender forms and further particulars of the three projects can be obtained from the Architectural Services Department, 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Tender offers for all these projects will close at noon on August 2.

End

Tenders invited for sewage treatment works

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The Drainage Services Department is inviting tenders for extension and modification works for the Pillar Point Sewage Treatment Works.

The works include the construction of an outfall pumping station, gravity sewers and some ancillary and modification works to the existing sewage treatment works.

The works, when completed in September 1998, will enhance the operational efficiency of the treatment works and improve the water qualities off Urmston Road.

Tender forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Chief Engineer, Sewerage Projects Division, Drainage Services Department, 44th floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai.

The tender closing date is noon on August 2.

End

Prequalification of sewage treatment and disposal facilities

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The Drainage Services Department is inviting tenders to prequalify for the design and construction of the Sham Tseng Sewage Treatment Works and Submarine Outfall.

The project will involve the design, construction and commissioning of a sewage treatment works with a capacity of 14,000 cubic metres per day, together with associated sludge handling facilities, civil building works and a 350-metre submarine outfall.

The design and construction of the sewage treatment works is scheduled to begin in March 1997 for completion in about 32 months.

This contract forms part of the Ting Kau and Sham Tseng Sewerage, Sewage Treatment and Disposal Facilities Project.

When completed, all sewage in the coastal area from Ting Kau to Tsing Lung Tau will be collected and treated at the new sewage treatment plant before discharged into the sea. This will help improve the water quality along the western coastline of Tsuen Wan.

A notice inviting prequalification submissions was published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

Pre-qualification documents can be obtained from Montgomery Watson Hong Kong Limited, 1911 Windsor House, 311 Gloucester Road, Causeway Bay.

Completed prequalification submissions should be submitted before noon on August 23 this year.

End

Village flood protection works planned for Yuen Long

* * * * *

The Government has proposed to carry out a series of flood protection works in San Tin, Yuen Long.

This is part of the Administration's continuous efforts to alleviate flooding problems in the New Territories, a government spokesman said today (Friday).

The flood protection works for San Tin villages will include the construction of a flood protection embankment with an ancillary maintenance road, a flood water storage pond, a pumping station and ancillary drainage facilities. To enable these works to be carried out, the government announced today plans to resume 28 private agricultural lots totalling at about 78,996 square metres in the vicinity.

Construction works will begin in October for completion in April 1999.

"Rehousing together with ex-gratia allowances will be available to eligible occupiers in accordance with current policy," said the spokesman.

Details of the lots affected are contained in a notice published in the Government Gazette today.

Plans can also be seen at the Yuen Long District Lands Office, ninth floor, Yuen Long Government Offices, and Tai Kiu Market, 2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long.

End

Tenders for dredging works invited

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The Civil Engineering Department (CED) is inviting tenders for the dredging of sea-bed to the south of Stonecutters Island.

The works will provide an anchorage area of about 695,000 square metres to accommodate four mooring buoys for the future naval base. The contract is expected to commence in October and will take about eight months to complete.

CED is also inviting tenders for the Pak Shek Kok reclamation for dumping, Stage 1.

The project includes the construction of about 1,000 metres long seawall, reclamation of about 14 hectares of seabed at Pak Shek Kok in Tolo Harbour by public dumping material and associated works. Works will commence in October for completion in February 1998.

Both projects have been designed and the construction will be supervised by the Port Works Division of the Civil Engineering Office of CED.

Tender forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Division's Chief Engineer, fifth floor, Civil Engineering Building, 101 Princess Margaret Road, Ho Man Tin, Kowloon.

Tender offers for both contracts will close at noon on August 2.

End

Tenders invited for works at Tai O

* * * * *

The Hong Kong Island and Islands Development Office of the Territory Development Office is inviting tenders for civil engineering works at Tai O, Lantau Island.

The contract will include the construction of 1.5-kilometre long intercepting sewers, pumping mains, two pumping stations and the reconstruction of road surface affected by the sewer laying works. Works will begin in October for completion in about two years.

A notice of the tender invitation was gazetted today (Friday).

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Consulting Engineers, Messrs Wilbur Smith Associates Limited, 18th floor, Kowloon Building, 555 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

The tender offer will close at noon on August 2.

End

Quarterly business receipts indices for service industries

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Business receipts in most of the service industries continued to show year-on-year increases in value terms in the first quarter of 1996, according to statistics released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department. The banking industry registered the fastest growth, by 17%. The communications industry also grew by 15%.

The strong growth in business receipts in the banking industry was mainly attributable to an increase in net interest income while that in the communications industry was related to the rapid growth of mobile telephone services. Meanwhile, considerable increases in business receipts were also registered in the following services industries: storage (+13%); hotels (+12%); transport (+10%) and financing (except banking) (+10%).

Business receipts in import/export, retail, insurance and business services also increased, by 6%, 5%, 2% and 2% respectively.

On the other hand, business receipts in the wholesale industry dropped by 2% in value terms. This was due mainly to a decrease in business receipts in wholesale of raw materials and semi-manufactures as well as clothing, footwear and allied products.

Compared with the fourth quarter of 1995, business receipts in the financing (except banking) industry registered a strong growth of 16%. This was mainly due to an increase in the stock market turnover in the first quarter of 1996.

However, business receipts in many industries recorded decreases of varying magnitudes. This was probably affected to some extent by seasonal factors, as the first quarter of a year is usually the low season for trade-related activities such as wholesale, import/export, transport and storage.

Table 1 presents provisional business receipts indices for service industries for the first quarter of 1996 and revised indices for the fourth quarter of 1995, with the quarterly average of business receipts in 1992 taken as 100. Also tabulated are comparisons of the results of the first quarter of 1996 with those of the fourth quarter of 1995 and the first quarter of 1995.

Table 2 shows the time series of quarterly business receipts indices. Annual indices are also included.

Statistics on banking are obtained from the Hong Kong Monetary Authority; and those on retail and restaurants businesses are obtained from two existing surveys regularly conducted by the Census and Statistics Department.

The report, Quarterly Business Receipts Indices for Service Industries, First Quarter 1996, is now on sale at \$8 per copy at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

It can also be purchased from the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Enquiries about the survey results may be directed to the Business Services Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2894 8120.

Table 1 : Business Receipts Indices for Service Industries for 4th Quarter 1995 and 1st Quarter 1996

表一：一九九五年第四季及一九九六年第一季服務業業務收益指數
(Quarterly average of 1992 = 100)
(一九九二年按季平均指數 = 100)

Type of Service Industry 服務行業	4th Quarter 1995 一九九五年第四季	1st Quarter 1996 一九九六年第一季	1st Quarter 1996 compared with 4th Quarter 1995 一九九六年第一季與一九九五年第四季比較		1st Quarter 1996 compared with 1st Quarter 1995 一九九六年第一季與上年同期比較	
	(Revised figures) (修訂數字)	(Provisional figures) (臨時數字)	Points (點)	% (百分率)	Points (點)	% (百分率)
Wholesale 批發	136.2	121.0	- 15.2	- 11.2	- 2.9	- 2.3
Import / Export 進出口貿易	157.7	137.0	- 20.7	- 13.1	+ 8.4	+ 6.5
Retail 零售 ⁽¹⁾	138.8	138.9 #	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 7.1	+ 5.4
Hotels 酒店	183.9	159.9	- 24.1	- 13.1	+ 17.1	+ 12.0
Restaurants 飲食店 ⁽²⁾	117.6	119.8	+ 2.1	+ 1.8	+ 3.7	+ 3.2
Transport 運輸	154.7	141.9	- 12.8	- 8.2	+ 13.4	+ 10.4
Storage 倉庫	130.3	119.3	- 11.0	- 8.5	+ 13.5	+ 12.7
Communications 通訊	170.0	162.8	- 7.2	- 4.2	+ 20.9	+ 14.8
Banking 銀行 ⁽³⁾	161.2	151.4	- 9.8	- 6.1	+ 22.1	+ 17.1
Financing (except banking) 金融(銀行除外) ⁽⁴⁾	146.8	170.6	+ 23.9	+ 16.3	+ 15.9	+ 10.3
Insurance 保險	169.6	172.6	+ 3.0	+ 1.8	+ 3.2	+ 1.9
Business services 商用服務	142.3	149.1	+ 6.8	+ 4.8	+ 2.6	+ 1.8

Notes 註釋：

- (1) Based on the survey results of the Monthly Survey of Retail Sales
根據零售業銷售額按月統計調查的結果
- (2) Based on the survey results of the Quarterly Survey of Restaurant Receipts and Purchases
根據飲食店收益及購貨按季統計調查的結果
- (3) Business receipts data are obtained from the Hong Kong Monetary Authority
業務收益數據由香港金融管理局提供
- (4) Excluding investment and holding companies
不包括投資及控股公司

Revised figure
修訂數字

Table 2 : Time Series of Quarterly Business Receipts Indices for Service Industries

表二：服務業按季業務收益指數的時間數列

(Quarterly Average of 1992 = 100)

(一九九二年按季平均指數 = 100)

Year Quarter 年 季	Wholesale 批發		Import/Export 進出口貿易		Retail 零售		Hotels 酒店		Restaurants 飲食店		Transport 運輸	
	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較
	%		%		%		%		%		%	
1993	106.3	+ 6.3	108.8	+ 8.8	112.7	+ 12.7	112.5	+ 12.5	106.1	+ 6.1	111.8	+ 11.8
1994	121.0	+ 13.8	123.7	+ 13.6	126.1	+ 11.9	131.1	+ 16.5	110.1	+ 3.7	123.1	+ 10.1
1995	125.0	+ 3.3	142.5	+ 15.2	132.0	+ 4.7	154.2	+ 17.6	115.2	+ 4.7	145.6	+ 18.3
1994 1	108.4	+ 10.2	108.0	+ 12.0	123.4	+ 17.9	121.3	+ 19.9	114.3	+ 15.2	112.2	+ 10.4
2	111.6	+ 8.5	113.5	+ 7.8	119.1	+ 10.7	124.1	+ 18.0	105.1	+ 7.0	111.0	+ 1.3
3	129.2	+ 17.9	130.4	+ 10.2	128.8	+ 9.0	120.2	+ 12.5	109.6	- 1.7	134.2	+ 10.7
4	134.8	+ 17.7	142.7	+ 24.0	133.2	+ 10.6	158.8	+ 15.9	111.2	- 3.7	134.9	+ 17.6
1995 1	123.9	+ 14.2	128.7	+ 19.1	131.8	+ 6.8	142.8	+ 17.7	116.1	+ 1.6	128.6	+ 14.6
2	117.5	+ 5.3	138.8	+ 22.2	124.0	+ 4.2	145.3	+ 17.1	110.8	+ 5.4	141.5	+ 27.4
3	122.4	- 5.3	144.6	+ 11.0	133.4	+ 3.6	144.9	+ 20.6	116.4	+ 6.2	157.4	+ 17.3
4	136.2	+ 1.0	157.7	+ 10.5	138.8	+ 4.1	183.9	+ 15.8	117.6	+ 5.8	154.7	+ 14.7
1996 1*	121.0	- 2.3	137.0	+ 6.5	138.9 #	+ 5.4	159.9	+ 12.0	119.8	+ 3.2	141.9	+ 10.4

Year Quarter 年 季	Storage 倉庫		Communications 通訊		Banking 銀行		Financing (except banking) 金融(銀行除外)		Insurance 保險		Business services 商用服務	
	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較	Indices 指數	Compared with preceding year/same quarter a year ago 與上年/上年同季比較
	%		%		%		%		%		%	
1993	98.5	- 1.5	118.8	+ 18.8	116.6	+ 16.6	148.7	+ 48.7	119.3	+ 19.3	117.3	+ 17.3
1994	106.6	+ 8.2	136.1	+ 14.5	122.5	+ 5.1	169.4	+ 13.9	146.9	+ 23.1	127.4	+ 8.7
1995	125.1	+ 17.4	154.5	+ 13.5	143.4	+ 17.0	140.7	- 16.9	167.0	+ 13.6	137.6	+ 8.0
1994 1	95.1	- 9.5	129.5	+ 20.6	116.9	+ 6.9	219.6	+ 101.0	150.2	+ 30.7	125.6	+ 33.8
2	106.1	+ 14.8	129.4	+ 11.9	115.4	+ 3.5	145.7	+ 24.5	141.9	+ 20.3	123.0	+ 9.9
3	114.8	+ 13.6	135.7	+ 11.8	120.6	- 1.1	157.9	+ 7.6	146.4	+ 20.3	130.8	+ 7.9
4	110.3	+ 15.3	149.7	+ 14.4	137.0	+ 10.9	154.3	- 30.3	149.1	+ 21.7	130.3	- 8.3
1995 1	105.8	+ 11.2	141.9	+ 9.6	129.3	+ 10.6	154.7	- 29.6	169.4	+ 12.8	146.5	+ 16.6
2	127.0	+ 19.7	149.6	+ 15.7	138.8	+ 20.4	139.2	- 4.5	160.3	+ 12.9	123.8	+ 0.7
3	137.4	+ 19.7	156.5	+ 15.3	144.1	+ 19.5	122.2	- 22.6	168.5	+ 15.1	137.9	+ 5.4
4	130.3	+ 18.1	170.0	+ 13.5	161.2	+ 17.7	146.8	- 4.9	169.6	+ 13.8	142.3	+ 9.2
1996 1*	119.3	+ 12.7	162.8	+ 14.8	151.4	+ 17.1	170.6	+ 10.3	172.6	+ 1.9	149.1	+ 1.8

* : Provisional figure 臨時數字

: Revised figure 修訂數字

Deadline for returning survey questionnaires

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The Census and Statistics Department today (Friday) reminded sampled establishments in the following surveys in respect of 1995 to return survey questionnaires to the department promptly:

- * Annual Survey of Industrial Production;
- * Annual Survey of Wholesale, Retail and Import and Export Trades, Restaurants and Hotels;
- * Annual Survey of Building, Construction and Real Estate Sectors;
- * Annual Survey of Transport and Related Services; and
- * Annual Survey of Storage, Communication, Financing, Insurance and Business Services.

These surveys are conducted annually by the department to collect up-to-date statistical data for evaluating the contribution of various economic activities to Hong Kong's gross domestic product and for ascertaining their cost structure and operating characteristics.

The survey results are useful to both the government and the private sector in formulating policies and making decisions.

Questionnaires were mailed in April - May 1996 to about 25,000 establishments sampled for the 1995 surveys. The establishments concerned are required by law to return the completed questionnaires to the department by July 31.

The acting Commissioner for Census and Statistics, Mr. Joseph Lee, appealed to the managements of all sampled establishments to fulfil their legal and social responsibilities by returning promptly the completed questionnaires and co-operating with officers of the department in the course of the surveys.

Any person who is unable to return the completed questionnaire within the time specified is required to declare with reasons his inability in doing so. Those who fail to do so may be committing an offence.

Each questionnaire of these annual economic surveys has been so designed that respondents can complete it by themselves. If necessary, officers of the Census and Statistics Department, who carry a Government Identity Card and a certificate for conducting the respective surveys, will visit the establishments concerned to assist them in completing the questionnaires.

Mr. Lee pointed out that audited accounts are not essential for the supply of income and expenditure data required by the surveys. The Census and Statistics Department accepts figures based on preliminary accounts or estimates which are correct to the best of the respondents' knowledge at the time of submission of the questionnaire, if audited accounts are not yet available.

He also stressed that information relating to individual establishments would be treated in strict confidence under the Census and Statistics Ordinance. Only aggregated information that does not reveal details of individual establishments will be released.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,833	0930	+122
Closing balance in the account	1,582	1000	+122
Change attributable to :		1100	+122
Money market activity	+124	1200	+124
LAF today	-375	1500	+124
		1600	+124

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.5 *+0.0* 12.7.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.05	2 years	2805	6.30	99.88	6.47
1 month	5.17	3 years	3904	6.30	98.91	6.84
3 months	5.32	5 years	5106	7.23	99.40	7.51
6 months	5.50	7 years	7305	7.60	99.50	7.84
12 months	5.94	5 years	M502	7.30	99.18	7.66

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$7,081 million

Closed July 12, 1996

End