



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## Government releases MPF consultancy report

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The consultancy report commissioned by the Government to examine in details various aspects relating to the establishment of a privately-run mandatory provident funds (MPF) system in Hong Kong was released today (Friday).

Presenting the report to the Manpower Panel of the Legislative Council, the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Michael Leung, stressed that the document was only the consultants' report and that the Government had not taken a position on its detailed findings.

"We are not bound to accept all the recommendations. Indeed, we have reservations on some of the recommendations, such as the interface between MPF system and existing schemes under the Occupational Retirement Schemes Ordinance (ORSO), and the advice that a residual provident fund scheme may not be needed," Mr Leung said.

Mr Leung told Legislative Councillors that while the Government was still considering the various issues and recommendations covered by the report, the Administration wished to share the report with them at the earliest opportunity in view of the importance of the subject.

He noted that the consultants shared the Government's view that the primary legislation enabling the introduction of the MPF system should be simple in design for better administration and understanding.

"Although Government has not yet decided on the detailed features of the primary legislation, there should be no surprises," he said.

Mr Leung recalled that in his speech to the LegCo motion debate on retirement on March 8, he had already outlined the main features of the primary legislation which would include:

- \* coverage and eligibility
- \* contributions
- \* vesting
- \* preservation and portability of benefits
- \* benefit payments
- \* residual provident funds scheme
- \* MPF Authority
- \* compensation fund
- \* offences
- \* provision for the making of subsidiary legislation and
- \* provision for the MPF Authority to make rules.

On the legislative timetable, Mr Leung said Government's aim remained unchanged, i.e. to introduce the MPF System Bill into the Legislative Council in June and to have the Bill enacted before the end of the current session in July.

"But this is only the beginning of the process. The primary legislation only provides for the enabling provisions. It does not commit us yet to the final shape of the system to be launched.

"A number of detailed and more complex issues will still need to be discussed, before these can be included in the subsidiary legislation," he said.

Noting concerns expressed in some quarters over government regulation, Mr Leung said the Government had made its intention clear from the start of the exercise that it did not want to and would not over regulate.

"Neither is it our intention to disrupt the many good schemes in existence," he said.

He reiterated the importance of ensuring a proper balance between what was necessary to protect the interests of scheme members while, at the same time, making sure that the Administration would not stifle the ability of the industry to maximise investment returns.

LegCo Members, interested organisations and individuals are welcomed to express views on the issues raised in the report.

Legislative Councillors would be able to examine and debate the Bill when it was introduced into LegCo.

"There will be more time for public consultation on the detailed issues in the subsidiary legislation in the months ahead," Mr Leung said.

Copies of the Report of the Consultancy on the Mandatory Provident Funds System, jointly prepared by Hewitt Associates LLC and GML Consulting Ltd, and the executive summary will be sent to those organisations and individuals who have expressed an interest in the issue.

Members of the public may obtain copies of the executive summary from District Offices of the Home Affairs Department from tomorrow.

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Government's response on supermarkets report

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The Government published today (Friday) a detailed response to the Consumer Council's report on supermarkets.

"We congratulate the Consumer Council for producing a valuable and constructive report on supermarkets," a Government spokesman said.

"The report provides an in-depth study of the state of competition in the retail market of foodstuffs and household goods. It puts forward recommendations which will bring about improvement in service by the supermarkets to maximise consumer welfare."

The Government response is prepared on the basis of views expressed in an extensive consultation exercise conducted both within and outside the Government after the Consumer Council published its report in November last year. The Response sets out in detail the Government's deliberations on the recommendations put forward by the Consumer Council regarding supermarkets.

The Government response makes two general observations on the report:

Firstly, the report adopts a narrow definition of supermarkets. It excludes other forms of distributive trades for foodstuffs and household products at the retail level which are in direct competition with the supermarkets. The market share taken up by the major supermarkets will be much less if the competition analysis takes into account of other close substitutes of supermarkets.

Secondly, the report has not found any evidence of collusion among the supermarkets or abuse of market dominance. On the contrary it suggests that in many aspects competition among the supermarkets is intense.

The spokesman said: "We shall take positive actions to follow up specific recommendations of the report."

The report recommends that the Government should inform consumers of the proposed legislative amendment on food labelling, and supermarkets should ensure that their shelves are free of out-dated products.

"We fully support this recommendation. The Secretary for Health and Welfare will step up publicity and enforcement efforts in conjunction with the Director of Health," the spokesman said: "Also all the major supermarkets undertake to check and withdraw any out-dated products."

The report recommends that the supermarkets should improve their customer services.

"We fully support this recommendation," the spokesman said: "From our discussions with the supermarkets, we find that they are generally positive towards the suggestions for improvement put forward by the Consumer Council.

"We are glad to hear from the supermarkets their initiatives to improve product labelling, to promote compliance with the Code of Practice issued by the Article Numbering Association, to cater for special customer needs and to strengthen liaison with customers."

The report recommends that the Government should encourage information disclosure by the supermarkets.

"We have taken positive steps to implement this recommendation," he said.

"The Commissioner for Census and Statistics will improve the accessibility and availability of information on supermarkets to the public.

"We are happy to learn from the major supermarkets that they are prepared to provide more information to the Consumer Council to facilitate its future research work," he added.

The report recommends that the Government should develop and implement planning standards for supermarkets in remote districts.

"We recognise the importance of this recommendation. The Director of Planning has commissioned a study to formulate new planning standards and guidelines for retail establishments, including supermarkets," the spokesman said.

"The study will involve the Consumer Council and is scheduled for completion by early 1996."

The report recommends that the operation right of supermarkets should be granted through open tender.

"It is the on-going practice of the Housing Authority to let supermarket operation rights in new premises through open tender," he said.

"The Housing Authority will consider the need to extend the same practice to existing supermarket sites if there is abuse of market dominance.

"We shall monitor closely the implementation of these recommendations and their impact on the consumers.

"We have considered in detail the report's recommendations to establish a body to handle complaints from businesses and to designate a body to monitor supermarkets.

"We do not see the need for special monitoring of the supermarkets at this stage," he said.

"We have not received any strong public support for the establishment of a body to handle complaints from businesses but will keep the need for such a body under review.

"The supermarkets and their substitutes may, however be an area of continuous study by the newly established Trade Practices Division of the Consumer Council," the spokesman added.

Members of the public who wish to obtain a copy of the Government Response may write to the Trade and Industry Branch at eighth floor, Central Government Offices, Ice House Street, Hong Kong.

End/Friday, May 5, 1995

#### Green light for the first phase of Lantau port development

\* \* \* \* \*

The Secretary of the Port Development Board, Mr. Tony Clark welcomed today's (Friday) announcement that the Governor-in-Council had approved the reclamation at Lantau Island to enable the construction of container terminals 10 and 11 to proceed.

He emphasised the need to ensure the development was carried out in as sympathetic a manner as possible so that its impact on its neighbours was minimised.

"Against that background, it must be remembered that our port remains Hong Kong's most significant economic asset and its incremental expansion is essential to the continued well-being of our community" he said.

He noted that an advanced works programme, involving the reclamation of back-up areas and which will facilitate the eventual construction of the terminals, was shortly to be undertaken by the Civil Engineering Department. These works were, he said, expected to go out to tender during the first half of this month. Construction could commence in July.

With over 11 million TEU's passing through the port last year and an increase of over 20% at the Kwai Chung container terminals for the first three months of this year compared with last year, Mr. Clark says it was vital for the continuing prosperity of Hong Kong that CT10 & CT11 are brought on stream as soon as possible.

The target date for the first berth of CT10 is the first quarter of 1998. Subsequent berths would come on at four monthly intervals.

Meanwhile Port Development Board studies to assess the requirement and timing of future terminals beyond CT10 and CT11 continue.

"Forecasts show that Hong Kong's future share in meeting the total demand for port facilities in Southern China as a whole will be substantial," said Mr. Clark.

"But it is important to remember that, whilst the full impact of construction and operation of both CT10 and CT11 had been described and found acceptable, detailed feasibility studies in respect of future requirements for container terminals will be carried out," he added.

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#### Hong Kong signs new Air Services Agreement with Germany

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An Air Services Agreement (ASA) between the Government of Hong Kong and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany was signed in Hong Kong today (Friday).

Under the specific authorisation of the United Kingdom Government, the Secretary for Economic Services, Mr Gordon Siu, signed on behalf of the Government of Hong Kong and the Federal Minister of Transport, Mr Matthias Wissmann, signed on behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Hong Kong/Germany ASA is the eleventh such agreement designed specifically with the provisions of the Sino-British Joint Declaration in mind. Others have been signed with the Netherlands, Switzerland, Canada, Brunei, France, New Zealand, Malaysia, Brazil, Sri Lanka and Australia.

Currently, Cathay Pacific Airways and Lufthansa each operate daily non-stop services between Hong Kong and Frankfurt. In addition, the two designated airlines together operate ten all-cargo services per week between Hong Kong and Frankfurt under a joint venture agreement.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr Siu said the new agreement would provide a solid foundation for carriers of the two sides to continue to develop and expand their respective services.

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#### Bill to preserve pension rights of lecturing staff

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Lecturing and inspectorate staff of the Education Department who have transferred to the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIED) will be able to preserve their civil service pension rights under a bill to be introduced into the Legislative Council.

Commenting on the Pensions (Special Provisions) (The Hong Kong Institute of Education) Bill gazetted today (Friday), a Government spokesman pointed out that as part of the transfer package approved by the Governor-in-Council in January this year, serving lecturers and inspectorate staff could choose to continue to earn pension benefits like civil servants during their employment with the HKIED.

"Alternatively, they can opt to have their earned civil service pension frozen in order to join the HKIED superannuation scheme following their transfer to the institution.

"When they retire from HKIED under the frozen pension, they will receive the civil service pension benefits accrued at the time of transfer and their entitlements under the superannuation scheme for the period of their employment under the HKIED," the spokesman said.

Since September last year, the HKIED has taken over the responsibility of teacher training from the Education Department and is recruiting its own staff.

The Bill also seeks to introduce a consequential amendment to the Hong Kong Institute of Education Ordinance to enable the HKIED to make payments to the Government in respect of the pensions of the transferred officers.

The Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council on May 17.

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### Green light given for container terminal reclamation

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The Governor-in-Council has given authorisation for the Government to reclaim about 460 hectares of land within an area of 1,260 hectares of foreshore and sea-bed at northeast Lantau for the development of container terminals 10 & 11 and the associated back-up areas.

Port is one of Hong Kong's key economic assets and about 90 per cent of the territory's merchandise trade goes through it. To ensure that commissioning of container terminals 10 & 11 would meet the forecast demand for container port growth, Government will have to proceed with the proposed reclamation as soon as possible.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies have suggested that with the adoption of suitable mitigation measures, the impact of the reclamation on the environment can be minimised.

All necessary mitigation measures will be stipulated in the development conditions of container terminals 10 & 11 as well as other associated works contracts to minimise dust, noise, water quality and glare impacts during construction and operation of the port.

An environmental monitoring and audit programme will also be implemented in accordance with the EIA recommendations. If the established limits are exceeded, appropriate action would be taken to rectify the situation.

Operators of the fishing industry who are affected by the reclamation project can also seek to redress through the existing established procedure.

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

The notice together with its related plan can be seen at the Lands Department Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, the Tsuen Wan District Office, first floor, Tsuen Wan Station Multi-Storey Carpark Building, 174-208 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories and the Islands District Office, 20th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central.

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 May 5, 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.

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PDB welcomes China-Taiwan trade ties

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The Secretary for the Hong Kong Port Development Board, Mr Tony Clark, said today (Friday) that he welcomed the proposed resumed shipping links between Taiwan and China.

"Any easing of artificial barriers to trade can only be good for those communities, such as Hong Kong, which depend on trade for their living," he said, adding that at present the volume of trade between China and Taiwan was heavily weighted in favour of Taiwan.

"Much of that trade is now, and is likely to continue to be, channelled through Hong Kong - the fact is that the greater proportion is destined for areas within our natural hinterland. Hong Kong will inevitably remain the principal port of the Pearl River Delta area for a good many years," he said.

He said the key effect was likely to be, first, that cargoes originating in Fujian province would feed directly into Taiwan rather than passing through Hong Kong as they (illogically) did at the present time and second, that certain transshipment cargoes would move from Hong Kong to Kaohsiung. Those cargoes generate the least in terms of value added to our economy, so this will be no bad thing.

An important side-effect is likely to be that there will be added stimulus to investment by Taiwanese in the key developing areas of China - such as the Pearl River Delta. This would offer scope for greater industrial production in Hong Kong's natural hinterland and hence open up new opportunities for Hong Kong companies.

Mr Clark said in terms of cargo volumes passing through the port, PDB forecasts were that, in a scenario where there was total freedom to trade between the Mainland and Taiwan, the growth rate in container throughput would be reduced by about one percent. This would have no measurable effect on the pressing need for additional terminals to be brought in as quickly as possible in our port.

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HK's status as international financial centre recognised

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The Financial Secretary, Sir Hamish Macleod, tonight (Friday) said Hong Kong's status as a major international financial centre was recognised.

Speaking at the Inauguration Dinner of the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers, Sir Hamish said a total of about 380 authorised institutions were operating in Hong Kong in one form or another.

"Hong Kong has possibly the largest representation of international banks in the world, including over 80 of the top 100. The external assets of the banking sector are the fifth largest in the world.

"Our forex turnover is the sixth largest. We have the largest market capitalisation in the Asian Stock markets outside Japan.

"Our economic growth, averaging over seven per cent a year in real terms for the past 30 years, has resulted in our GDP per capita exceeding that of Britain, Canada and Australia.

"We are the world's eighth largest trading economy, ranking just after the Group of Seven industrialised economies," Sir Hamish said.

He said Hong Kong had done well by developing the five basic foundations of a financial market. They are policy, products, prudential framework, platform and people.

Sir Hamish said Hong Kong had a pro-business policy environment and was recently rated by the US Heritage Foundation as the most free economy in the world.

"Our prudential framework provides transparent and impartial rules in line with international standards but without stifling private sector initiatives and competition.

"This is reflected in the highly diversified and sophisticated financial products being offered by banks and other financial institutions and available in the equity, debt and and foreign exchange markets," he said.

Sir Hamish said the technological platform of the supporting infrastructure was efficient and robust.

"We are co-operating closely with the banking community to develop by 1996 one of the most modern real-time gross settlement systems in the world," Sir Hamish added.

He concluded that all these impressive achievements also needed a well trained, educated and motivated workforce who had the expertise to meet changing market needs.

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#### Vessels and cargo statistics for the 4th quarter of 1994

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In the fourth quarter of 1994, 9,587 ocean vessels with a total capacity of 41.7 million net registered tons (being a unit of measure in volume terms of the space of a vessel available for carrying passengers or goods, one net registered ton equals 100 cubic feet) arrived at Hong Kong.

This information is contained in the report entitled "Hong Kong Shipping Statistics, October-December 1994" published today by the Census and Statistics Department.

The figures reflected an increase of 15% in number of vessels and 9% in capacity over the fourth quarter of 1993.

During the same period, there were 9,622 outgoing ocean vessels with a total capacity of 41.8 million net registered tons, representing an increase of 13% in number and 7% in capacity over the fourth quarter of 1993.

In the fourth quarter of 1994, the total tonnage of seaborne inward cargo comprising seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment, was estimated to be 19.6 Million tonnes, representing an increase of 12% over the same quarter in 1993.

During the same period, the total tonnage of seaborne outward cargo comprising seaborne exports (domestic exports plus re-exports) and seaborne outward transshipment, was estimated to be 9.4 Million tonnes, representing an increase of 20%.

Of the seaborne inward cargo, 82% in terms of tonnage were seaborne imports and 18% were seaborne inward transshipment. 54% of these cargoes were containerised.

Of the seaborne outward cargo, 60% in terms of tonnage were seaborne exports (domestic exports plus re-exports) and 40% were seaborne outward transshipment. 87% of them were containerised cargo.

The above statistics are summarised in Table 1.

In the fourth quarter of 1994, the top five countries of loading for seaborne inward cargo (comprising seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment) were Singapore (which accounted for 15% in tonnage terms), Japan (15%), China (13%), Taiwan (10%) and the Republic of Korea (9%). The top five countries of discharge for seaborne outward cargo (comprising seaborne exports and seaborne outward transshipment) were the USA (20%), China (19%), Taiwan (9%), Japan (6%) and the Federal Republic of Germany (5%).

The top five principal commodities of seaborne inward cargo in tonnage terms include petroleum, petroleum products and related materials (19%); coal, coke and briquettes (9%); artificial resins and plastic materials (7%); iron and steel (7%); and paper and paper products (6%).

The top five principal commodities of seaborne outward cargo in tonnage terms include machinery (11%); other manufactured goods classified chiefly by material (11%); other manufactured articles (8%); toys (5%); and articles of apparel and clothing accessories (5%).

The distribution of the top ten countries of loading and discharge and their changes in the tonnage of seaborne inward and outward cargo between the fourth quarter of 1994 and the fourth quarter of 1993 are shown in Table 2 and Table 3.

Similar statistics for seaborne inward and outward cargo analysed by the top ten principal commodities are shown in Table 4 and Table 5.

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

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

More details of ocean vessel and cargo statistics for the fourth quarter of 1994 are contained in the report entitled Hong Kong Shipping Statistics, October - December 1994. This report is now published in bilingual form.

The report is now on sale at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, Ground Floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, and the Publications Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, at \$52.00 a copy.

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

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**Table 1: Summary of ocean vessel and cargo statistics**

	4th quarter <u>1994</u>	% change over 4th quarter <u>1993</u>
<b>Incoming ocean vessel</b>		
Number	9 587	+15
Capacity (Mn. net registered tons)	41.7	+9
Seaborne inward cargo (Mn. tonnes)	19.6 (54)	+12
Seaborne imports (Mn. tonnes)	16.0 (45)	+10
Seaborne inward transshipment (Mn. tonnes)	3.6 (93)	+24
<b>Outgoing ocean vessel</b>		
Number	9 622	+13
Capacity (Mn. net registered tons)	41.8	+7
Seaborne outward cargo (Mn. tonnes)	9.4 (87)	+20
Seaborne exports (Mn. tonnes)	5.7 (80)	+9
(domestic exports plus re-exports)		
Seaborne outward transshipment (Mn. tonnes)	3.7 (97)	+42

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

Table 2: Seaborne inward cargo<sup>(1)</sup> by top ten countries of loading

<u>Country of loading</u>	<u>4th quarter</u>		<u>% change over</u>
	<u>1994</u>	<u>% share<sup>(2)</sup></u>	<u>4th quarter 1993</u>
	( ' 000 tonnes)		
Singapore	2 975	15	+4
Japan	2 883	15	+17
China	2 625	13	+16
Taiwan	1 950	10	-3
Republic of Korea	1 688	9	+24
U.S.A.	1 535	8	+33
Republic of South Africa	836	4	-8
Indonesia	789	4	+149
Australia	526	3	-53
Netherlands	500	3	+79

- Notes: (1) Seaborne inward cargo comprises seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment.  
 (2) % share is the share in tonnage terms with respect to the total tonnage of seaborne inward cargo.

Table 3: Seaborne outward cargo<sup>(1)</sup> by top ten countries of discharge

<u>Country of discharge</u>	4th quarter	<u>% share<sup>(2)</sup></u>	% change over
	<u>1994</u> ( '000 tonnes)		<u>4th quarter 1993</u>
U.S.A.	1 881	20	+31
China	1 810	19	+18
Taiwan	821	9	+19
Japan	549	6	+59
Federal Republic of Germany	450	5	+26
Singapore	408	4	+29
Netherlands	387	4	+24
Philippines	285	3	+15
United Kingdom	276	3	+6
Thailand	257	3	+131

Notes: (1) Seaborne outward cargo comprises seaborne exports and seaborne outward transshipment.

(2) % share is the share in tonnage terms with respect to the total tonnage of seaborne outward cargo.

Table 4: Seaborne inward cargo<sup>(1)</sup> by top ten principal commodities

<u>Commodity group</u>	<u>4th quarter</u> <u>1994</u> ( '000 tonnes)	<u>% share<sup>(2)</sup></u>	<u>% change over</u> <u>4th quarter 1993</u>
Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	3 676	19	+2
Coal, coke and briquettes	1 795	9	-16
Artificial resins and plastic materials	1 470	7	+2
Iron and steel	1 330	7	-9
Paper and paper products	1 141	6	+35
Other manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	991	5	+14
Machinery	943	5	-1
Cement and cement clinker	741	4	-12
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	660	3	+15
Stone, sand and gravel	589	3	+4

- Notes: (1) Seaborne inward cargo comprises seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment.  
 (2) % share is the share in tonnage terms with respect to the total tonnage of seaborne inward cargo.

Table 5: Seaborne outward cargo<sup>(1)</sup> by top ten principal commodities

<u>Commodity group</u>	4th quarter	<u>% share<sup>(2)</sup></u>	<u>% change over</u>
	1994 ( '000 tonnes)		4th quarter 1993
Machinery	1 056	11	+21
Other manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1 006	11	+43
Other manufactured articles	771	8	+30
Toys	514	5	+44
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	446	5	-13
Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	439	5	+8
Other chemicals and related products	385	4	-2
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	306	3	-26
Crude animal and vegetable materials	305	3	+15
Footwear	295	3	+22

Notes: (1) Seaborne outward cargo comprises seaborne exports and seaborne outward transshipment.

(2) % share is the share in tonnage terms with respect to the total tonnage of seaborne outward cargo.

End/Friday, May 5, 1995

Large number of protected parrots seized

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A large number of protected parrots and hornbills were seized by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) from Mongkok pet shops in a series of operations during the past few days.

Following investigations, AFD field officers raided a number of pet shops in Mongkok in the past two days and seized 52 parrots and three hornbills from four of the shops. The protected birds are believed to have not been covered by possession licence, issued in advance by AFD.

The seized birds, comprising one species of hornbill and six species of parrots, are estimated to be valued at \$70,000.

Parrots are usually found in Asian and African regions.

Commenting on the operations, an AFD conservation officer, Mr Cheung Chi-sun said the number of parrots species seized in this operation was the largest in years.

Mr Cheung pointed out that parrots were wildlife species protected under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

"Anyone importing, exporting or possessing these Appendix II birds without valid licence would have breached the Animals and Plants (Protection of Endangered Species). On conviction, the maximum penalty will be a \$500,000 fine plus one year's imprisonment if the birds are for a commercial purpose," he said.

As for Appendix I wildlife, the maximum penalty is a \$5 million fine plus two years' imprisonment if they are for a commercial purpose.

Wildlife under Appendix I are highly endangered species which include rhino and tiger as well as their parts, gall bladders and bile from certain species of bear, and medicines claiming to contain rhino or tiger ingredients.

Investigations on the case are still continuing.

End/Friday, May 5, 1995

New LDC members appointed

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The Governor has appointed three members of the community to the Land Development Corporation Board for a term of two years starting May 1.

They are Mr Barry Cheung Chun-yuen, a chief executive of an oil company; Mr Eoghan M McMillan, a director of several listed companies; and Mr David Lung Ping-ye, a senior university lecturer in architecture.

A Government spokesman said the three new members possessed rich experience in their own respective field.

"With their expertise and professional knowledge, they will widen the spectrum of the LDC Board."

The LDC Board is chaired by Mr Andrew Li Kwok-nang. Other members include Mr Ambrose Lau Hon-chuen, Mr Lau Wah-sum, Mr Leung Chun-ying, Mr Pao Ping-wing, Mr David Wong Shou-yeh, Mr J C Shaw, Mr Michael Lai, Mr David Lee Tsung-hei, the Director of Planning, the Director of Lands and the Director of Home Affairs.

End/Friday, May 5, 1995

SPEL (Designate) appointed to Land Commission

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It has been announced today that Mr Bowen Leung, Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands (designate), has been designated as the Senior Representative of the British side of the Land Commission with effect from May 1, 1995. He will replace Mr A G Eason on the latter's retirement from Government.

End/Friday, May 5, 1995

### Recommendations to improve services for autistic persons

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The Hong Kong delegation which went on a study tour to Japan and the United States early this year to enrich local knowledge of rehabilitation service for autistic persons has produced a report outlining a number of recommendations in the light of local situation.

At a report-back seminar organised by the delegation for some 300 parents and service providers\* today (Friday), the chairman of the Rehabilitation Development Co-ordination Committee (RDCC), Dr Raymond Wu, and the Commission for Rehabilitation, Mr Allan Chow, introduced to the participants details of the recommendations in the report.

The report, which has been endorsed by RDCC, covers the following topics:

- \* definition and prevalence rate
- \* diagnosis and assessment
- \* training and education for autistic pre-schoolers
- \* training and education for autistic school-age children
- \* services for autistic adults and
- \* others

In summary, Dr Wu said, the delegation noted that the definition/diagnostic criteria as well as the planning ratio in Hong Kong were in line with overseas practice.

On training and education for autistic pre-schoolers, Dr Wu said more spacious premises should be provided and that training for special child care workers taking care of autistic pre-schoolers should be reinforced.

"Apart from supporting families with newly identified autistic children and enhancing social work input in special child care centres, more emphasis should be placed on training element vis-a-vis caring element in pre-school services.

"The staff concerned should therefore have some background in education," he added.

Another recommendation the delegation made was to form a central co-ordinating group amongst the Education Department, Institute of Education and special schools to plan and organise systematic training on the TEACCH Programme (Treatment and Education of Autistic and Related Communication Handicapped Children) in Hong Kong.

The TEACCH Programme is legislated and funded by the State Government of North Carolina to provide diagnosis, assessment, treatment, training, research, and education to autistic children and their families.

It emphasises a "holistic" approach, structured teaching with focus on the individual needs of a child, parent - professional collaboration, and comprehensive co-ordinated life-long community-based services.

"We are therefore recommending that a non-governmental organisation may set up a centre of excellence modelling on this TEACCH Programme," Dr Wu said.

As regards services for autistic adults, the delegation considered that the funding approach on a per-capita basis in Tokyo could be a useful reference.

"We would like to see staffing support in skills centres to implement structured and individualised programmes be increased, and some post-training continuous support to autistic persons in supported/open employment be provided," Dr Wu said.

"In addition, some computers should be made available to every classroom of pre-school centres and special schools.

"Further improvements in rehabilitation services for people with autism should be made by re-targeting existing secured resources as far as possible," he added.

The study visit, from January 11 to 20, was organised by the Health and Welfare Branch and subsidised by the Queen Elizabeth Foundation for the Mentally Handicapped.

During the two-week tour, the delegation visited selected service establishments in Tokyo and its adjacent areas as well as the Division TEACCH of the University of North Carolina in the United States.

Other members of the delegation, including representatives from RDCC, the Health and Welfare Branch, Social Welfare Department, Education Department, Department of Health, Hospital Authority, Vocational Training Council and non-governmental organisations, also attended the seminar to share with the participants their major observations overseas and deliberate on the implications to direction and provisions of services for autistic persons.

End/Friday, May 5, 1995

HK delegation to visit China

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The Secretary for Transport, Mr Haider Barma, will be visiting Beijing and Xian from May 10 to 19, a Government spokesman announced today (Friday).

He will be accompanied by seven other Hong Kong Government officials.

This is one in a series of China visits started in 1988 for the purpose of general familiarisation.

The last similar visit, which took place in March this year, was led by Mr Donald Tsang, then Secretary for the Treasury.

End/Friday, May 5, 1995

Laying of submarine cable system in Deep Water Bay

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The Government plans to grant a licence to Hong Kong Telecom Limited to lay submarine cable system at Deep Water Bay for extending telecommunication services among Hong Kong, Thailand and Vietnam.

The works will be carried out within an area of about 595,000 square metres of foreshore and sea-bed at Deep Water Bay.

The work will begin in August this year for completion in about two months.

The extent of the area affected is gazetted today (Friday).

The notice and its related plan can be seen at the following locations: -

- \* Lands Department's Survey and Mapping Office,  
14th floor, Murray Building,  
Garden Road, Central;
- \* Public Enquiry Service Centre,  
Central and Western District Office,  
Ground Floor, Harbour Building,  
Pier Road, Central;

- \* The District Lands Office, HK South,  
Southorn Centre, 20th floor,  
Hennessy Road, Wan Chai;
- \* Southern District Office,  
Shop 25, Ground Floor,  
Mei Fung Court, Aberdeen Centre,  
Nam Ning Street, Aberdeen.

The plan can also be purchased at the Survey and Mapping Office.

Any person who considers that he has an interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and sea-bed involved will be affected, may submit a written objection to the Director of Lands on or before July 5, 1995.

End/Friday, May 5, 1995

#### Extension block for a skills opportunity school

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for the construction of an extension block for a skills opportunity school in Shui Pin Tsuen, Yuen Long.

Works include the construction of a five-storey school extension with a multi-purpose hall, a student activities centre, 12 classrooms and ancillary facilities on the upper floors.

There will be a design and technology workshop with storage facilities on the ground floor.

Menial staff quarters, a basketball court, a car park and planting areas will also be built.

Construction works are expected to start in July for completion in about a year.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Property Services Branch, Architectural Services Department, fifth floor, main block, APB Centre, 9 Sung Ping Street, Hung Hom, Kowloon.

Tender offers will close at noon on May 26.

End/Friday, May 5, 1995

Residents reminded to sign up as voters before June 1

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The acting Deputy Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, Mr Joseph Lai, today (Friday) reminded working people who had not yet received any notification from the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) regarding their registration as a functional constituency elector to pick up a form quickly and sign up before the registration deadline on June 1.

Registration forms are available from over 1,500 places, including District Offices, major banks, post offices and housing estate offices.

There are also temporary registration counters all over Hong Kong, apart from local registration campaigns conducted by the District Offices.

"The Government's aim is to register as many working persons as possible, so that they can have a second vote for the forthcoming Legislative Council elections," Mr Lai said.

Speaking at a luncheon meeting of the FLMI Society, Mr Lai said there might be two reasons for a resident not to have received any notification from the REO - either he had not registered as a geographical elector before, or his employer had not yet supplied his particulars to the office.

"The REO has sent out over 710,000 letters to all companies in Hong Kong, requesting employers to supply particulars of their employees, and to advise on their main line of business," he said.

Taking the insurance sector as example, Mr Lai said all insurance companies would have received the request back in January this year.

"If an insurance company responded and supplied to the REO the required information, the REO will cross-check the employees' list with the General Electoral Roll.

"This step is important because you can only register as a functional elector if you are already a geographical elector," he said.

"For an insurance company employee who is already a geographical elector, the REO will group him under the Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services functional constituency - one of the nine new functional constituencies.

"The employee will receive a notification to this effect. If he does not object, he will automatically be registered in the new functional constituency."

Mr Lai also elaborated on the 21 old functional constituencies that will, together with the nine new functional constituencies, return 30 members to the Legislative Council.

"The old 21 functional constituencies for the 1991 elections will be maintained," he said. "However, the franchise of some of them have been broadened."

"Instead of giving each relevant organisation a vote, or 'corporate voting' as we call it, up to six individuals from the senior management of an organisation can now register and vote," he said.

Mr Lai pointed out that the Legislative Council elections on September 17 would be three elections rolled into one - geographical elections, functional elections, and Election Committee elections.

"The majority of voters who are eligible to cast more than one vote will only need to visit a polling station once," he said, adding that voting procedures would be simple and easy.

End/Friday, May 5, 1995

#### Yan Oi Tong directors visit SWD

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The new Board of Directors of Yan Oi Tong today (Friday) paid a courtesy call on the Acting Director of Social Welfare, Mrs Louise Wong, and discussed with her a wide range of social welfare services provided by the organisation.

Praising Yan Oi Tong for its contribution to the community, Mrs Wong said the Social Welfare Department would continue to give full support to the organisation.

Yan Oi Tong operates some 30 social welfare units throughout the territory since its establishment in 1977.

End/Friday, May 5, 1995

Ballet training good for children

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Self-discipline and dedication prepares youngsters for life just as much as many of the subjects taught in the classroom, Mrs Patten said today (Friday).

Officiating at the 35th anniversary prize giving ceremony of Jean M Wong School of Ballet, she said ballet training benefited a child in many ways.

She said: "The children develop a grace and poise far beyond their years, and a self-confidence and presence that many an adult without their training would envy."

Mrs Patten also shared with the parents the experience in taking their "young dancers" to ballet classes, and acknowledged their dedication and support for their children's efforts and achievements.

End/Friday, May 5, 1995

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	1,940	0930	+570
Closing balance in the account	1,965	1000	+570
Change attributable to :		1100	+565
Money market activity	+525	1200	+535
LAF today	-500	1500	+535
		1600	+525

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 118.2 \*+0.0\* 5.5.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.49	19 months	2611	6.90	100.85	6.41
1 month	5.64	22 months	2702	7.50	101.80	6.52
3 months	5.79	30 months	3710	7.25	101.24	6.81
6 months	5.90	36 months	3804	6.90	100.04	7.00
12 months	6.13	59 months	5003	7.75	101.38	7.54

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$ 16,202 million

Closed May 5, 1995

End/Friday, May 5, 1995