



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
GARDEN ROAD, 5th-8th FLOORS, MURRAY BUILDING,
HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Saturday, November 30, 1996

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Sunday, December 1, 1996

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RPIS projects benefit rural residents and visitors

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The Home Affairs Department is committed to speeding up the implementation of the rest of the Rural Planning and Improvement Strategy (RPIS) Minor Works projects to create a better rural environment in the New Territories, the Director of Home Affairs, Mrs Shelley Lau, reaffirmed this today (Saturday).

Speaking at a ceremony marking the completion of one of HAD's latest RPIS Minor Works projects, the Tsing Lung Tau Pier in Tsuen Wan, Mrs Lau said the key to the successful implementation of RPIS minor works programme was local consultation and co-operation through HAD's established liaison network and close ties with the local community.

A two-tier administrative structure, the RPIS Minor Works Steering Committee and the nine district working groups, encourages local input in the programme's project progress.

Mrs Lau said HAD employed outside specialist contractors in the design and construction of projects to expedite the projects' completion.

Turning to the \$4.19 million Tsing Lung Tau Pier project, Mrs Lau said more than 1,000 local residents and passengers would directly benefit from it each day.

The pier is 95 metres long with separate boarding bays for medium and small size vessels.

The original Tsing Lung Tau Pier was built by villagers living in Northeast Lantau in 1960. Since then, regular "kaito" service was established to ply between Tsing Lung Tau and the northern part of Lantau. In 1970, funds were allocated to enable villagers to build a stone pier to replace the original one.

She said \$4.2 million worth of RPIS Minor Works projects were launched over the past year in Tsuen Wan district alone while another \$5 million will be spent on other projects starting in March next year.

End

Task Force Black Spot continues its works in NT

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The Task Force Black Spot (TFB) of the Lands Department continues to make progress in cleaning up environmental black spots in the New Territories.

In a progress report submitted to the Special Committee on Cleaning Up the New Territories chaired by Legislative Councillor, Dr Samuel Wong, the TFB reported that landscaping work for 42 sites of government land comprising an area of 0.74 hectares in the North District (East) Action Area had been completed.

"Landscaping work for the remaining government land sites in the area will be carried out in the next planting season.

"All the illegally occupied government land in the area outside the limits of the road projects, comprising 71 sites with an area of 2.71 hectares, will be cleared and fenced off by the end of this month," the Government Land Agent, Mr Allan Hay, said today (Saturday).

Meanwhile, the confirmation of the planning status of all the 261 industrial undertakings in the area had been completed.

"In January next year, the TFB will redeploy staff resources on processing the in-situ environmental improvement works for 113 existing use undertakings," said Mr Hay.

Turning to the Pat Heung Pilot Action Area, Mr Hay said that up to November 1 this year, the TFB had considered 127 cases covering a total of 16.6 hectares.

"Of these cases, 42 existing use undertakings with an area of 5.9 hectares have satisfactorily completed the required in-situ environmental improvement works."

On the container action areas, Mr Hay said the TFB was arranging concerted government enforcement actions against one existing use container depot in the Ha Tsuen Container Action Area that had refused to implement the Code of Practice.

"A 1.5-hectare government land site at Fu Tei Au in Man Kam To Road has been tentatively identified for lorry and container tractor or trailer parking, and detailed assessments of the clearance and rehousing commitments are being worked out.

"The TFB will also submit an application to the Town Planning Board for the planning approval of the proposed use," he said.

The TFB was set up by the Lands Department in August 1994 with a commitment to deal with the proliferation of conversion of agricultural land into open storage yards and other similar uses in the New Territories prior to 1990.

It reports to the special committee which advises the Government on all matters relating to the environmental black spots and oversee the task force's work.

End

Five employee representatives elected to LAB

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Five employee representatives nominated by registered employee unions were today (Saturday) elected to the Labour Advisory Board (LAB) for a term of two years starting from next January.

They were:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| * Cheung Kwok-bui | (140 votes) |
| Hong Kong Civil Servants General Union | |
| * Leung Chau-ting | (110 votes) |
| Clerical Grades Civil Servants General Union | |
| * Leung Tsz-leung | (154 votes) |
| Hong Kong and Kowloon Free Clerical Workers' Union | |
| * Leung Fu-wah | (226 votes) |
| Hong Kong and Kowloon Rubber and Plastic Workers General Union | |
| * Poon Siu-ping | (145 votes) |
| Hong Kong Storehouses and Transportation Staff Association | |

At today's election, 282 registered employee unions turned out to vote while 272 votes cast were declared valid.

The election was supervised by the Assistant Commissioner for Labour, Mr William Siu, who acted as the Returning Officer.

The votes were counted in the presence of Miss Esther Leung who represented the Secretary for Education and Manpower, and Mrs Judy Luk from the Registrar of Trade Unions.

Meanwhile, nominations of employer representatives for the LAB closed today and the results would be announced at a later date.

End

Quality is an important educational goal: education chief

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The Director of Education, Mrs Helen C P Lai Yu, today (Saturday) said quality education was a necessary and important educational goal.

Speaking at the Hong Kong Third International Conference on Quality Early Education for Quality Childhood, Mrs Yu said: "There is always a need and the scope for improving performance to ensure the most effective, efficient and accountable use of resources.

"We in the Education Department have a duty to help schools, to support them."

The department has taken a number of measures to improve kindergarten education by regulatory requirements and by financial assistance since 1990.

Mrs Yu said quality early education should provide children with appropriate development activities, a balanced curriculum programme based on their interest and learning needs, and a well-structured learning environment.

It depended much on the quality of teachers, she said.

Teachers need to have professional expertise, an understanding of educational theories, proper skills and attitudes, she said.

"They need to love and to respect the children in their care," she said.

Mrs Yu pointed out that family and school complement each other to maximise the potential for a child's development.

"Parents are the first teachers of their children : they are the model for their behaviour, for their social and cultural values," she said.

End

Transport Department adopts new logo

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Transport Department (TD) will adopt a new departmental logo from December 1.

A spokesman for the department said today (Saturday): "The new logo is designed and graphically derived from the Chinese character '運', which literally means 'transport'."

"It is believed that the new logo would give the department a better identity and will reflect its work in the planning of various transport services for all Hong Kong people," he said.

The new logo is green in colour.

"The existing departmental logo was introduced in 1982. Its design was prepared by combining the initials of the name of the Transport Department, which has gone rather obsolete," the spokesman added.

End

CAS new training centre to be completed next October

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The Civil Aid Services' (CAS) Hong Kong Region will be provided with adequate training facilities upon the completion of the CAS Hong Kong Training Centre next October.

A foundation stone laying ceremony for the training centre was performed by the Secretary for Security, Mr Peter Lai, this (Saturday) morning.

Located at Moreton Terrace in Causeway Bay, the centre is to replace the one at Hawthorn Road in Happy Valley. Construction of the three-storey building started in June this year.

In addition to offices and classrooms, the new centre will also comprise smoke chambers, tunnels, a rescue tower and a sport climbing wall to provide adequate training facilities for CAS members of the Hong Kong Region as well as induction training courses for new recruits.

End

Eighteen organisations to raise funds in December

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Eighteen organisations have been granted permission to raise funds for charitable purposes next month (December), a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Saturday).

They will either sell flags, tokens or similar items, or place donation boxes in designated public places.

Members of the public can call the Department's hotline 2343 2255 in case of doubt.

Any organisation planning to hold activities involving collection of money or sale or exchange for donation of badges, tokens or similar articles in a public place for charitable purposes should apply for a public subscription permit from the Social Welfare Department.

The spokesman appealed to organisers to take precautions against any possible fraud.

"Sellers should display the permit or carry copies of the permit for inspection upon request if the fund-raising is mobile," he said.

The spokesman also advised them to prepare guidelines for sellers, setting out the places and the times for selling and the collection points for bags.

"Organisers should inform the Police in case of loss of property, and seek their help when fraudulent acts, such as tampering of collection bags or making unauthorised selling, are found," he added.

Permits are given to the following organisations to raise funds next month:

Flag Day

Event date

Organisation

December 7

The Hong Kong Association for the Mentally Handicapped

December 14

Hong Kong Kidney Foundation Ltd.

December 21

Tsuen Wan Ecumenical Social Service Centre

December 28

Hong Kong Childhealth Foundation

Subscription

Event date

Organisation

December 1 - 8,
11 - 13

Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF

December 1 - 4

Tung Wah Group of Hospitals

December 1, 7,
8 & 14

Green Power Ltd

December 1, 8,
15, 22 & 29

Jesus is Lord School of Ministry (HK) Ltd

December 1

Hong Kong Evangelism 2000 Ltd

December 1

Ronald McDonald House Charities Hong Kong Ltd

December 5 - 8,
12 - 15

The Community Chest of Hong Kong

December 7, 8,
13, 14 & 15

Hong Kong Movie Star Sports Association
Charities Ltd

December 7, 8, 28
& 29

Shepherd Community Church

December 14 & 15

World Vision Hong Kong

December 15

Word for the World Christian Fellowship

December 15

Sowers Action

December 15

Queen Mary Hospital

December 29

Hong Kong Church of Christ

End

Public invited to attend hiking safety seminar

* * * * *

Members of the public are invited to take part in a seminar next month (December) to enrich their knowledge of hiking safety.

The seminar, jointly organised by the Country and Marine Parks Authority, Civil Aid Services (CAS), the Countryside Heritage Society of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Scout Association, will be held on December 21 (Saturday).

A spokesman for the Country and Marine Parks Authority said today (Saturday) that the function, as part of a series of activities under the Enjoy Safe Hiking Campaign began in October, was aimed at enhancing public awareness on hiking safety in the form of talks and sharing by experienced hikers.

"It would be a good chance for all those interested in hiking to acquire knowledge and useful techniques of the activity," he said.

"Members of the public and hiking groups or organisations are welcome to attend."

The spokesman said professionals in the field and experienced hikers would give talks on safety hints.

"They would share their own hiking experiences, which would be useful and valuable to the participants."

"An exhibition of mountain rescue equipment will also be staged by the CAS," he added.

The seminar, which is free of charge, will be held at the Scout Association's office, 34 Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai from 2.30 to 4.30 pm.

In view of limited space, there will be a quota of 100 participants and those interested are requested to enrol in advance.

Enrolment forms can be obtained at the Country Parks Management Office, Room 1462, Canton Road Government Offices, 393 Canton Road, Kowloon or by fax 2317 0482. Forms are also available at visitor centres in Aberdeen, Plover Cove, Shing Mun, Clear Water Bay and Tai Mo Shan Country Parks, as well as in the Lions Nature Education Centre, Sai Kung.

Reply slips should be returned by mail or by fax to the Country and Marine Parks Authority, or in person to any of the country park visitor centres before December 15.

For enquiries on the seminar or collection of enrolment forms, please contact the Country Parks Ranger Head Office on 2420 0529.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority Money Market Operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	5720	0930	+195
Closing balance in the account	5705	1000	+195
Change attributable to:		1100	+195
Money market activity	+195	1130	+195
LAF today			-210

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.8 *+0.0* 30.11.96

Closed November 30, 1996

End

Governor's Transcript

The following is the transcript of the media session given by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, on his return from Japan this (Sunday) afternoon :

Governor: Good afternoon. I've had a busy and successful visit to Japan. I was delighted to be part of such a good team from Hong Kong taking part in the Hong Kong-Japan Business Co-operation Committee meetings and also giving briefings at, very well attended, meetings of Japanese businessmen, business leaders, politicians, on Hong Kong and our prospects. It's an important positive message for us to get away, for us to get across to Japan because there's almost \$20 billion of Japanese investment here in Hong Kong. Japan's our third largest trade partner. So we want to get across as positive a message as possible to the Japanese community and as well as those business meetings I did a number of interviews and radio and television programmes.

I was also pleased to see the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, the MITI (Minister for International Trade and Industry), the Finance Minister and three former Prime Ministers, the leader of the main opposition party and a number of other members of the Diet at what was a busy time for them because it's the beginning of a new Diet session.

I think the most important and substantial thing to come out of those meetings was the commitment from the Prime Minister, Mr Hashimoto and from the Foreign Minister, that the SAR passport after 1997, will be treated differently from and better than the PRC passport. And what we're of course very keen to establish is that there should be multiple-entry visas if possible for the SAR passport, that it should be treated as well as the BDTC or BN(O) passport. The Japanese Government haven't quite made up their mind on that, but they were able to give us the basic assurance we wanted that they would make a proper distinction between the SAR passport and the PRC passport. As you know, that was our objective with the Japanese Government. There was never any chance of them giving visa-free access because they don't really do that for anybody very much. They don't do it at the moment for BDTC passports but making that distinction between our own integrity as a passport issuing administration and the position in China is an important one for us to have established.

Question: Governor, the CE designate is going to be elected later this month, have the Hong Kong Government identified any office spaces to him, or are there any Government officials being seconded to help him in the formulation of the SAR Government?

Governor: As I'm reported as saying, I think in some of this morning's newspapers, we've of course made preparations for the arrival of a Chief Executive designate. We've identified office space and we've started to think about personnel. But those aren't as it were decisions that we wish to try to impose in any way. We've got some ideas that we will want to discuss with the Chief Executive designate who will doubtless have his own ideas as well. We've put ourselves in a position where we can help as constructively and positively as possible but the Chief Executive designate will, I'm sure, have some views which he'll want to share with us as well.

Question: In the question and answer session between CE candidates held last week, Director Lu Ping described this as a step towards democracy. Do you think this kind of activity will help the selection process more open and transparent?

Governor: I think it would be the greatest step forward towards real and lasting democracy in Hong Kong if Director Lu Ping was to accept the outcome of the Legislative Council elections in the autumn of last year.

Question: The Liberal Party has pledged they would vote against the subversion Bill. Are you worried that the Bill will not get passed in the second reading of LegCo and what outcome to the public if the Bill is not enacted ?

Governor: We will be trying very hard to ensure that the Bill does enjoy support in the Legislative Council. Those who vote against it will have to explain to the community why they have done so. I very much hope that rather than just strike attitudes people will actually talk about the content of the Bill. If there are aspects of the Bill that the Liberal Party doesn't like it should say what they are. If the Liberal Party doesn't like the Bill attempting to express BL 23 offences in terms which are consistent with the Common Law and with the best international practice, then they should say how they think these offences can be translated into law. They should look at what some of the leaders of our legal profession in Hong Kong have said about this extremely sensible and moderate Bill. I simply don't understand their attitude. If all they're prepared to do is to say no, but not actually discuss the substance of the issues.

Question: Are you worried that the provisional legislature will eventually hold up the Bill, even though it's passed by the present Legislature?

Governor: I think the community here and the international community would be extremely concerned if the protection of human rights in Hong Kong was to be undermined by decisions taken by an appointed body like the provisional legislature. Okay, thank you very much indeed.

End

District festival facilities community building: DHA

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The Sham Shui Po District Festival has developed into the most outstanding community building activity in Hong Kong since it was first launched in 1986, the Director of Home Affairs, Mrs Shelley Lau, said today (Sunday).

Officiating at the opening ceremony of this year's Sham Shui Po District Festival, Mrs Lau said the success of the annual function was the result of co-operation and involvement of people from all walks of life and community organisations in the district.

The opening ceremony was followed by a carnival featuring performances by famous singers, Chinese opera, magic, demonstrations of Chinese arts and crafts and the display of a wide variety of game stalls.

A total of 46 cultural and recreational activities will be organised by 27 local groups between today and January 12 next year. These include carnivals, variety shows, outings, dancing contests, sports competitions, Chinese operas, feasts for the elderly, and photo and design competitions.

Mrs Lau called on all residents to participate in these activities to help promote the theme of the festival - "Moving towards a better Sham Shui Po".

Mrs Lau noted that residents were brought closer together in the course of organising the festival activities. The mutual trust and understanding that the festival had engendered would surely make it easier to deal with the district's problems of bedspace apartments, elderly singletons and new arrivals.

The festival is organised by the Sham Shui Po District Festival 96/97 Co-ordinating Committee with the assistance of the Sham Shui Po District Office. It is jointly sponsored by the Sham Shui Po District Board and the China Light and Power Company with subsidies from the Urban Council District Subsidy Scheme.

The Sham Shui Po District Officer, Mr John Leung, and the Sham Shui Po District Board Chairman, Mr Eric Wong were also present at the opening ceremony.

End

Slope maintenance exhibition moves to Cheung Fat Estate

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A seven-day exhibition on slope safety and maintenance will start tomorrow (Monday) at Cheung Fat Shopping Centre on Tsing Yi Island.

It is the last of a roving exhibition held this year to promote public awareness of slope safety and the importance of slope maintenance.

Organised by the Civil Engineering Department, the exhibition will be open daily between 10 am and 10 pm until December 8 on the third floor of Cheung Fat Shopping Centre. Admission is free.

The three exhibitions held in China Hong Kong City in Tsim Sha Tsui, Heng Fa Chuen in Chai Wan and Luk Yeung Sun Chuen in Tsuen Wan were well received and attracted thousands of visitors.

The exhibition will feature various aspects of proper slope maintenance through colourful illustrations and photographs.

Information on landslip warning messages, warning signs, evidence of landslip danger and precautionary measures to take when the landslip warning is in force, will be displayed.

Visitors can bring home leaflets on slope safety and maintenance.

A promotional video on slope maintenance will also be shown at the exhibition venue.

End

Red Ribbon Centre comes into operation

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The Red Ribbon Centre, an education centre on AIDS developed by the Department of Health under the sponsorship of AIDS Trust Fund, will come into operation in phases starting from tomorrow (Monday).

A spokesman for the department said today (Sunday): "Red Ribbon is the international symbol for concern about HIV/AIDS and people living with the disease."

"The main objectives of the centre are to promote community participation in AIDS education and research; and to facilitate the development of social, behavioural and epidemiological research on HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong and the region." he said.

"It also aims to enhance the development of quality education programmes and to provide an avenue for local and international collaboration in the fight against HIV/AIDS."

The new centre, which is not a treatment centre, comprises an information centre, an exhibition area, a library and a resource unit which provides support to small non-governmental organisations working on AIDS.

Audio-visual and desktop publishing facilities are also available.

Members of the public are welcome to visit the centre on the second floor of Wang Tau Hom Jockey Club Clinic at 200 Junction Road, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon.

It is open from 10 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm daily from Monday to Friday. The opening hours on Saturday are from 9 am to noon. The centre is closed on Sundays and public holidays.

Enquiries can be made on 2304 6268.

End

Planning Department joins Internet

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The Planning Department will join the Internet from tomorrow (Monday) to provide the public with an instant access to information on the work of the department through a dedicated homepage.

From tomorrow, world-wide Internet users will be able to obtain comprehensive and up-to-date information about the activities of the department by visiting the web site at <http://www.info.gov.hk/planning/>, a spokesman for the department said today (Sunday).

"The launching of the bilingual homepage on the Internet also unveils the curtain of the department's 'Serving the Community Week' programme," he said.

Information presented on the homepage includes the department's organisation, its mission and vision, town planning in Hong Kong, planning information services, careers in the department as well as public consultation documents including the Territorial Development Strategy Review 1996 and the Town Planning White Bill.

"These information will be updated from time to time to ensure visitors to our home page are kept abreast with the latest situation," he added.

Enquiries and suggestions are welcome. They can be sent to the department's electronic mail address at orta@pland.gcn.gov.hk on the homepage.

End