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## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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### New Government badges and insignia

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The Government today (Wednesday) released the new designs of badges and insignia to be worn by uniformed officers after the transfer of sovereignty.

A government spokesman said that a working group had been set up three years ago to review badges and insignia worn on government uniforms.

"The purpose was to identify all badges and insignia bearing connotations of British sovereignty and to prepare new designs to replace them," he said.

The disciplined services were principally concerned in this exercise although several other departments were also involved. All new designs have been prepared by the departments themselves. The Chinese side have been consulted.

The Director of Government Supplies has issued a tender for the manufacture of the new badges and insignia. Over two million separate items are involved at an estimated cost of some \$6 million.

The new badges and insignia will be worn with effect from midnight on June 30, 1997.

The Secretary for the Treasury has agreed that all uniformed officers may keep one set of their existing badges and insignia free of charge as souvenirs. The remaining badges and insignia will be returned to the Director of Government Supplies for disposal in accordance with Stores Regulations.

End

### Draft Trade Marks Bill for consultation

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The Government today (Wednesday) issued a consultation paper on a draft Trade Marks Bill.

The consultation paper and the draft Trade Marks Bill were issued to a number of organisations, including trade marks owners and users, as well as those in the professional and academic fields for their comments. The consultation will last until 5 March this year.

A spokesman for the Trade and Industry Branch said: "The draft Trade Marks Bill seeks to update the existing Trade Marks Ordinance to bring it in line with prevailing international standards on intellectual property protection, and to streamline the application procedures and examination process for trade mark registration.

Some of the main legislative proposals include -

- The definition of a trade mark is broadened. The new definition of a trade mark as a sign capable of being represented graphically may permit a wider range of marks to be registered.
- The existing Parts A and B of the Register for Trade Marks will be combined in order to streamline application procedures and the processing for trade mark registrations.
- The grounds for prohibition of registration on the basis of conflict with earlier marks will be extended. This will include prohibition of registration of a later identical or similar mark for goods or services which are not similar to those protected under the earlier mark. Rights to sue for infringement will also be similarly extended.
- Proprietors of well-known marks will be entitled to restrain by injunction the use in Hong Kong of identical or similar marks where such use is likely to cause confusion.
- It will be possible to register a collective trade mark which indicates a trade connection of goods and services with a proprietor association.
- Proprietors of registered trade marks may apply to court for orders for erasure, disposal or delivery up in respect of infringing goods, materials or articles.

"The Government plans to introduce the Bill into the Legislative Council as soon as possible, after taking into consideration the comments received during the consultation period," the spokesman added.

The text of the consultation paper and the draft Bill are also available on the INTERNET at <http://www.houston.com.hk/hkgipd/>

End

Hong Kong Securities Clearing Company appointment

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A Financial Services Branch spokesman announced today (Wednesday) that the Financial Secretary had appointed Mr Peter Wong Hong-yuen as an independent director of the Hong Kong Securities Clearing Company Limited (HKSCC) upon the resignation of Mr Derek Murphy with effect from January 31, 1997 until the 1998 Annual General Meeting of the HKSCC.

The spokesman added that Mr Murphy had made very valuable contributions to the Company and his work on the Board has been much appreciated.

Under the Articles of Association of the HKSCC, the Financial Secretary may at any time appoint not more than five persons as directors of the HKSCC to represent the public interest. In addition to Mr Wong, the other four independent directors are Professor Chan Yuk-shee, Messrs Denis M P C Ho, Stuart H Leckie and Michael Liu.

End

Places of public entertainment licenses to be exhibited

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The Places of Public Entertainment (Amendment) Regulation 1997, which seeks to require a licensee to exhibit his places of public entertainment license in a conspicuous position at the entrance of the premises to which the license relates, was published in the Gazette today (Wednesday).

Under the Places of Public Entertainment Ordinance (PPEO) and its subsidiary legislation, the Urban Council and the Regional Council are the licensing authorities in their respective areas.

"To inform users of the licensing status and for the purpose of better enforcement of the PPEO and its subsidiary legislation, the Municipal Councils have decided that all licensees of places of public entertainment should be required to display their licenses at the premises to which the licenses relate," a Government spokesman said.

"While the Municipal Councils can require the display of licenses as aforesaid by imposing new conditions upon the grant of new licenses, they cannot do so in respect of those existing licenses.

"The amendment regulation which will come into effect on April 11, will enable the Councils to effect the policy on all licensed premises," the spokesman added.

Similar provisions already exist under bylaw 35B of the Food Business (Urban Council) Bylaws and bylaw 34B of the Food Business (Regional Council) Bylaws in respect of food premises.

End

Governor to broadcast Lunar New Year's message

\* \* \* \* \*

The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, will deliver his Lunar New Year Address tomorrow (Thursday) as scheduled in the following timetable:

| <u>Television</u>        | <u>Date</u>           | <u>Time</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| TVB (Jade)               | Thursday (February 6) | 5.40 pm     |
| TVB (Pearl)              | Thursday (February 6) | 7.55 pm     |
| ATV (Home)               | Thursday (February 6) | 5.50 pm     |
| ATV (World)              | Thursday (February 6) | 7.25 pm     |
| Wharf Cable<br>(Chinese) | Thursday (February 6) | 6 pm        |
| Wharf Cable<br>(English) | Thursday (February 6) | 7.30 pm     |

| <u>Radio</u>                           | <u>Date</u>           | <u>Time</u>                                |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| Metro FM Select<br>(English & Chinese) | Thursday (February 6) | 4 - 7 pm<br>(exact time<br>not yet fixed)  |
| Commercial Radio<br>(English)          | Thursday (February 6) | 6.03 pm                                    |
| Commercial Radio-2<br>(Chinese)        | Thursday (February 6) | 6.05 pm                                    |
| Commercial Radio-1<br>(Chinese)        | Thursday (February 6) | 6.20 pm                                    |
| RTHK 1, 2 and 5<br>(Chinese)           | Thursday (February 6) | 7 pm                                       |
| RTHK 3<br>(English)                    | Thursday (February 6) | 7.03 pm                                    |
| Metro Hit Radio<br>(English)           | Friday (February 7)   | 12 - 1 am<br>(exact time<br>not yet fixed) |

End

#### AFD to deploy artificial reefs in marine parks

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The Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) will deploy artificial reefs in Hoi Ha Wan and Yan Chau Tong marine parks this year to help conserve marine environment and enhance fisheries resources.

This was stated by the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, Dr Lawrence Lee, when he addressed the Fish Marketing Organization's (FMO) annual prize presentations this (Wednesday) morning.

Dr Lee said that following the Finance Committee's approval for a \$100 million allocation last year, planning work had already begun for deploying artificial reefs in suitable locations within five years.

Affected fishermen, fishermen representatives and green groups would be consulted on the deployment strategy soon, he said.

Dr Lee noted that the consultancy study on fisheries resources and fishing operations in Hong Kong waters would be completed in the middle of this year.

"Data obtained will enable the formulation of a long-term fisheries management plan for conservation, development and sustainable use of fisheries resources in local waters," he said.

In addition, last year's establishment of three marine parks and a marine reserve would certainly help long-term marine conservation and fisheries resources enhancement.

Turning to FMO, Dr Lee said the organisation had continued working closely with AFD on various fronts to assist local fishermen's fishery development and production efficiency.

Among the FMO services are the provision of loan funds for the purchase of fishing equipment, training courses, scholarships and the promotion of moist pellet feed.

In order to provide a more comprehensive service, FMO is working closely with AFD on the feasibility of redeveloping the Aberdeen Wholesale Fish Market.

"It is also continuing working on the review and improvement of its wholesaling services, and bringing in new marine fish species to tie in with the increasing market demand," Dr Lee added.

At today's ceremony, Dr Lee presented awards to 46 fishermen who had performed well in their catch last year.

Ten FMO staff, who have each served over 25 years, were given certificates in recognition of their long and meritorious service in the organisation.

End