




## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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JLG Joint Communique

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The Joint Liaison Group held its 38th meeting in Hong Kong from December 4 to 6, 1996.

The group had a discussion about the Transfer of Government, including the transitional Budget and related matters, transfer of Archives, Government assets, the Handover Ceremony etc; matters relating to Hong Kong's international rights and obligations; Hong Kong's Air Services Agreements; Civil Service matters; the Defence of Hong Kong and Public Order; franchises, contracts and major infrastructural projects extending beyond 1997; Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements between Hong Kong and relevant countries; Surrender of Fugitive Offenders Agreements between Hong Kong and relevant countries; the Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in civil and commercial matters between Hong Kong and foreign countries; the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Agreements; Agreements on Mutual Legal Assistance in criminal matters between Hong Kong and foreign countries; Localisation of Laws; Adaptation of Laws; the Court of Final Appeal; the implementation of the provisions of the Joint Declaration relating to the Right of Abode in Hong Kong after 1997; Visa Abolition Agreements; and Vietnamese Migrants in Hong Kong (boat people and refugees).

The next meeting of the Joint Liaison Group will take place at a time and place to be decided.

End

Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance effective in fortnight

\* \* \* \* \*

The core provisions of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance will come into force on December 20. The commencement notice bringing them into effect was published in the Gazette today (Friday).

A spokesman for the Home Affairs Branch said with the implementation of the core provisions, an individual (a data subject) will have the right to find out from data users, such as private firms or Government departments, whether they hold his or her personal data. If they do, the individual will have the right to obtain a copy of such data and correct any mistake of the records.

"The data users must comply with such an access request unless there is an applicable exemption. For example, there is an exemption where the personal data concerned are held for the prevention or detection of crime and the compliance with the access request would prejudice this purpose," the spokesman said.

Schedule 1 of the Ordinance sets out six Data Protection Principles aimed at protecting individuals' interests. Apart from Principle 6 which specifies data subjects' rights, the others are formulated to impose obligations on data users.

Under these Principles, data users:

- must not collect more data than necessary for the purposes of their activities;
- must not use the data for another purpose without the data subject's consent;
- must take practicable steps to ensure the accuracy of the data and to safeguard the security of the data;
- must be open about the kinds of personal data they hold and the main purposes for which personal data are used.

The spokesman said the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, Mr Stephen Lau, has earlier recommended that while the core provisions should take effect in the latter half of December 1996, the commencement of two remaining sections of the Ordinance - which provide for specific control on the automated matching of personal data (section 30) and the transfer of personal data outside Hong Kong (section 33) - should be deferred. The Privacy Commissioner, an independent authority appointed by the Governor to administer the Ordinance, made the recommendation after consulting the Personal Data (Privacy) Advisory Committee.

"The Secretary for Home Affairs has accepted the recommendation because feedback from data users, particularly private sector organisations, indicated a need for the Privacy Commissioner to give more specific guidance on how to comply with the two sections and for data users to be allowed more time to act on such guidance," the spokesman noted.

He added that even with the deferral of the two sections that specifically control the automated matching of personal data and transfer of such data outside Hong Kong, these activities will still, with effect from December 20, 1996, be subject to the general provisions in the Ordinance. For example, the data users concerned must comply with the data protection principle that data should not be used, without the data subject's consent, for a purpose other than that for which the data were collected.

End

Unauthorised developments in NT

\* \* \* \* \*

In response to press enquiries, a Government spokesman today (Friday) said that the Government is already adopting a sensible and sensitive approach in enforcement and prosecution towards the unauthorised developments (UD) in the New Territories.

However, haphazard and unauthorized developments in the rural parts of the NT are causing serious problems to the environment, traffic, safety, flooding and health, the spokesman said, adding that Government had received numerous complaints from the local residents, District Boards and the Legislative Council.

"To control the unscrupulous proliferation of UD's, Planning Department will continue to carry out its statutory planning enforcement functions sensitively as an integral part of our efforts to clean up the environmental black spots."

As regards the Government's position on the demands by the four associations involved in organising a vehicle procession in the North NT today, he said that suitable sites had been reserved on statutory town plans in the rural NT for vehicle repair workshops and associated industries, and port back-up uses including container storage.

"The Department is also continuing with actions to identify additional sites for such purposes.

"Rezoning proposals can be made to the Town Planning Board for consideration while applications to regularise unauthorized developments can also be made to the Board for approval," he added.

The spokesman said that the Government welcomes the suggestion for setting up a committee on which both Government and the operators are represented to identify suitable sites for the relocation of the UD's.

He said that in fact the Government had been meeting the Hong Kong Container Depot and Repairer Association Ltd on a regular basis in this regard.

End

STI to attend WTO First Ministerial Conference

\* \* \* \* \*

Secretary for Trade and Industry, Miss Denise Yue, will lead a Hong Kong delegation to Singapore tomorrow (Saturday) to attend the first Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), to be held from 9 to 13 this month.

The Ministerial Conference will review the performance of the WTO since its establishment in 1995. It will also consider the future direction and work programme of the WTO.

"Being a trading economy, Hong Kong attaches a great deal of importance to the WTO," Miss Yue said.

"A WTO which is effective in promoting a free, open and stable international trading system and in liberalising trade and investment is vital to Hong Kong."

At Singapore, ministers from 127 WTO member governments will review the progress made by members on implementing their obligations committed in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Ministers will also assess the progress of ongoing work, particularly the negotiations on basic telecommunications and financial services which are due to be concluded next year. In addition, they will consider the future work programme of the WTO.

Efforts will also be focused on concluding an information technology agreement. This agreement aims to eliminate substantially tariffs on a wide range of computer and telecommunications-related products by the year 2000. Hong Kong strongly supports this initiative and participates actively in the negotiations.

Miss Yue said: "We hope that the meeting would deliver concrete results that would lend further credibility to the WTO and sustain the momentum of progressive trade liberalisation."

"Hong Kong would play an active role in the Ministerial Conference to help achieve a successful outcome," she added.

Apart from attending the Ministerial Conference, Miss Yue will hold bilateral meetings with ministers of some WTO member governments to exchange views on matters of mutual interest.

The Hong Kong delegation includes the Director-General of Trade, Mr Alan Lai; Hong Kong's Permanent Representative to the WTO, Mr Stuart Harbinson; the Director-General of Telecommunications, Mr Alex Arena; and officers from Trade and Industry Branch and Trade Department.

End

#### Full honour funeral service for fire fighter

\* \* \* \* \*

An official funeral service in full honour for the late Senior Fireman Liu Chi-hung will be held outside Cheung Sha Wan Fire Station at 10.30 am on Monday (December 9).

At the official ceremony, the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten; the Director of Fire Services, Mr Peter Cheung; representatives of various government departments; and local dignitaries will lay wreaths and pay respects to the late senior fireman.

Senior Fireman Liu Chi-hung died while fighting a No 5 alarm fire at Garley Building, 233-239 Nathan Road, on November 20. The fire broke out at 4.49 pm and was put out at 1.47 pm the following day.

A Buddhist religious ceremony will first be held on Monday at the Universal Funeral Parlour, Hung Hom.

Following the religious ceremony, the cortege will proceed to the fire scene at Garley Building where an "on scene" ceremony will be held at about 10.10 am.

After the official funeral service outside Cheung Sha Wan Fire Station, the cortege will leave at about 10.50 am for Gallant Garden, Wo Hop Shek Cemetery, for the burial service.

A spokesman for the Fire Services Department said today (Friday) that the department was doing all it could to assist Mr Liu's family.

An advance payment of \$180,000 from death gratuity had been made available to the late senior fireman's family today.

The Director of Fire Services also presented donation cheques to Mr Liu's family as the department received more than \$636,000 of donations from members of the public.

End

#### Appointment to Management Committee of Consumer Legal Action Fund

\* \* \* \* \*

A Government spokesman announced today (Friday) that the Secretary for Trade and Industry has reappointed all ten members of the Management Committee of the Consumer Legal Action Fund for a period of two years with effect from today.

The ten members are Ms Anna Wu Hung-yuk, Mr Geoffrey Ma Tao-li, QC, Mr George Chan Wing-yau, Mrs Pamela Chan Wong-shui, JP, Ms Audrey Eu Yuet-mee, JP, Dr John Ho Dit-sang, Mr Ho Shut-kan, Mr Lee Man-ban, MBE, JP, Mr Ng Shui-lai, JP and Mr Edmund Young Kak-sun.

The Consumer Legal Action Fund was established on November 30, 1994 in the form of a trust to provide legal assistance to consumers in taking legal action against unscrupulous traders. The term of reference of the Management Committee is to assist the Consumer Council in managing the Fund and determining the eligibility of the applicants in seeking legal assistance from the Fund.

End

## Volume and price statistics of external trade in September

\* \* \* \* \*

In the first nine months of 1996, the volume of re-exports increased by 7.3% over the same period last year, while the volume of domestic exports decreased by 8.9%, according to the statistics released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Taking re-exports and domestic exports together, the volume of total exports increased by 4.6%. Meanwhile, imports increased by 3.6% in volume.

Comparing September 1996 with September 1995, the volume of re-exports increased by 3.7%, while that of domestic exports decreased by 13%. Taken together, the volume of total exports increased by 1%. The volume of imports increased by 1.4%.

The growth in the volume of trade is derived from the growth in trade value with the effect of price changes discounted.

As regards price changes in the first nine months of 1996 over the same period last year, the prices of re-exports decreased by 0.4%, while that of domestic exports increased by 0.6%. Import prices decreased by 1.1%.

Comparing September 1996 with September 1995, the prices of re-exports and domestic exports both decreased by 1.4%. Import prices also decreased, by 2.5%.

Price changes are reflected by changes in unit value indices which are compiled based on average unit values or, for certain commodities, based on specific price data.

The terms of trade index, defined as the ratio of total export price index to import price index, recorded an increase of 0.9% in the first nine months of 1996 over the same period last year.

The changes in the value, unit value and volume of re-exports by end-use category are shown in Table 1.

Analysed by end-use category, increases in volume were recorded for re-exports of foodstuffs (+25%); capital goods (+9.9%); and consumer goods (+4.1%) in September 1996 over a year earlier.

On the other hand, the volume of re-exports of fuels; and raw materials and semi-manufactures decreased by 15% and 1.2% respectively.

Over the same period of comparison, increases were recorded in the prices of re-exports of fuels (+23%); and foodstuffs (+0.6%).

On the other hand, re-export prices of raw materials and semi-manufactures; and capital goods decreased by 4% and 2.1% respectively. Meanwhile, re-export prices of consumer goods recorded no significant change.

The changes in the value, unit value and volume of domestic exports by principal commodity group are shown in Table 2.

Comparing September 1996 with September 1995, commodity groups which recorded significant increases in volume of domestic exports included textile yarn and thread (+14%); and metal manufactures (+7%).

On the other hand, the volume of domestic exports of radios of all kinds; and textile made-ups and related articles decreased by 63% and 58% respectively.

Commodity groups which recorded more notable increases in domestic export prices included metal ores and scrap (+12%); and textile made-ups and related articles (+7.6%).

On the other hand, domestic export prices of electronic components; and domestic electrical appliances decreased significantly, by 8.4% and 3.6% respectively.

The changes in the value, unit value and volume of imports by end-use category are shown in Table 3.

The import volume of foodstuffs increased by 12% in September 1996 compared with September 1995.

Significant increases in import volume were noted of soya bean oil, peanut oil, vegetable oil and lard; and sugar. However, decreases were recorded in the import volume of milk, butter, cheese and eggs; and rice.

Over the same period of comparison, the import volume of consumer goods decreased by 1.3%.

Decreases in import volume were noted of alcoholic beverages; and radios, television-sets, gramophones, records, tape recorders and amplifiers. However, increases in import volume were recorded for passenger motor cars; and footwear.

The import volume of raw materials and semi-manufactures increased by 1.6% in September 1996 compared with September 1995.

Increases in import volume were recorded for most commodities in the end-use category of raw materials and semi-manufactures. Significant increases in import volume were noted of plastic material; and paper and paperboard. However, decreases were noted of wool and other animal hair; and yarn of man-made fibres.

Imports of fuels decreased by 12% in volume in September 1996 compared with September 1995.

As regards capital goods, the volume of imports increased by 6.7% in September 1996 over September 1995.

Notable increases were recorded in the import volume of transport equipment; and office machinery. The import volume of construction machinery however decreased.

Comparing September 1996 with September 1995, import prices of fuels and consumer goods increased by 20% and 1.1% respectively.

On the other hand, import prices of raw materials and semi-manufactures; capital goods; and foodstuffs decreased by 7.2%, 3% and 0.6% respectively.

Details of the above statistics are published in the September 1996 issue of Hong Kong Trade Index Numbers.

The report will be available on sale around December 9 at \$14 per copy at either the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway or the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries regarding regular subscription to this report may be directed to the Publications (Sales) Office of the Information Services Department, 28th floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong (Tel: 2598 8194) and enquiries on trade indices to the Census and Statistics Department on 2582 4918.

Table 1 : Changes in re-exports by end-use category

End-use category	Comparing SEP 1996 with SEP 1995			Comparing JAN-SEP 1996 with JAN-SEP 1995		
	% changes			% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Foodstuffs	24.5	0.6	24.9	14.8	*	14.9
Consumer goods	4.5	*	4.1	5.7	0.7	4.3
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	-5.2	-4.0	-1.2	3.6	-2.0	5.7
Fuels	3.1	23.4	-14.6	23.4	14.0	10.3
Capital goods	5.3	-2.1	9.9	13.1	-1.2	17.1
ALL COMMODITIES	2.2	-1.4	3.7	6.7	-0.4	7.3

\* less than 0.05%

Table 2 : Changes in domestic exports by principal commodity group

Commodity group	Comparing SEP 1996 with SEP 1995			Comparing JAN-SEP 1996 with JAN-SEP 1995		
	% changes			% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Clothing	-11.7	-1.3	-10.3	-7.6	0.6	-7.8
Textile fabrics	1.7	-0.8	1.5	-3.7	-0.2	-4.2
Textile yarn and thread	21.1	6.8	14.4	22.2	5.3	17.0
Textile made-ups and related articles	-55.7	7.6	-57.8	-33.7	1.9	-34.4
Radios of all kinds	-59.0	7.1	-62.6	-8.8	6.6	-18.9
Electronic components	-27.4	-8.4	-23.6	-12.7	-2.3	-12.3
Footwear	-40.0	-3.0	-33.8	-53.3	-3.5	-52.0
Metal manufactures	8.4	0.8	7.0	-8.3	5.1	-13.0
Metal ores and scrap	-11.5	11.8	-20.3	-12.9	9.4	-19.0
Watches and clocks	-14.9	0.5	-15.2	-9.6	-0.2	-9.6
Travel goods, handbags and similar articles	-40.9	2.5	-42.7	-18.2	1.3	-19.8
Domestic electrical appliances	-8.0	-3.6	-2.8	30.1	-3.3	35.6
ALL COMMODITIES	-13.5	-1.4	-13.0	-9.0	0.6	-8.9

Table 3 : Changes in imports by end-use category

End-use category	Comparing SEP 1996 with SEP 1995			Comparing JAN-SEP 1996 with JAN-SEP 1995		
	% changes			% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Foodstuffs	11.1	-0.6	11.6	6.1	*	6.2
Consumer goods	0.1	1.1	-1.3	2.0	1.5	0.4
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	-4.8	-7.2	1.6	-0.9	-3.4	2.6
Fuels	7.6	20.2	-11.7	16.7	9.6	5.7
Capital goods	4.5	-3.0	6.7	7.6	-3.3	11.0
ALL COMMODITIES	-0.2	-2.5	1.4	2.5	-1.1	3.6

\* less than 0.05%

End

Majority satisfied with present situation: HAB poll

\* \* \* \* \*

The latest public opinion survey conducted by the Home Affairs Branch (HAB) in November has shown that 74 per cent of the respondents were satisfied with the present situation in Hong Kong.

The percentage, slightly up from 73 per cent in the last bimonthly survey in September, has indicated a rising trend since May which then stood at 70 per cent, an HAB spokesman said today (Friday).

Fifteen per cent of the respondents expected the situation to improve in the next 12 months while 46 per cent believed it would stay about the same. This compared with 15 per cent and 47 per cent respectively in the last survey.

As to the overall performance of the Government, 54 per cent expressed satisfaction, a slight increase from 52 per cent, while the number of people feeling dissatisfied had decreased from 27 per cent to 25 per cent.

Respondents regarding civil servants' working attitudes as good also rose from 55 per cent to 56 per cent while those who took the opposite view had gone down from 29 per cent to 27 per cent.

Of the three most often mentioned problems facing Hong Kong, housing issues continued to top the list at 41 per cent, the same as in the last survey.

Among this group of respondents, 75 per cent considered that the Government had exerted effort in solving the problem, which represented an increase of three percentage points. Twelve per cent also said the Government had handled the problem well, up from 11 per cent.

The percentage of respondents concerned about labour-related problems dropped marginally from 32 per cent to 31 per cent while those concerned about Hong Kong's future, the third most often mentioned issue, remained unchanged at 25 per cent.

The survey was the 67th in the series to gauge the trend of public opinion on perceived problems in Hong Kong, Government's overall performance and the community's views of the general situation.

Through a random sampling of residential telephone numbers, 1,513 persons aged between 15 and 64 were successfully interviewed.

End

Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance streamlined

\* \* \* \* \*

The Government proposes to streamline the operation of the Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance enacted in 1989 to provide for the handling of ozone depleting scheduled substances which are seized but for which an owner cannot be traced.

A Government spokesman said today (Friday) that at present, the Ordinance prohibits local manufacturing of ozone depleting substances, restricts their import and export, and deals with seized items for which an owner can be identified.

To improve upon the current situation, an Ozone Layer Protection (Amendment) Bill 1996 will be introduced to empower the Director of Environmental Protection to handle seized items for which no apparent owner can be identified so that a notice can be served to invite claim for ownership.

If no claim has been established within 30 days, the Director may apply for forfeiture of the seized items.

The Bill, gazetted today, will be introduced into the Legislative Council on December 18.

It will also provide for the petition by the owners to the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands to claim the return of forfeited items within six weeks after the forfeiture.

Another purpose of the Bill is to transfer the powers to make regulation and amend the schedule to the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, after consultation with the Advisory Council on the Environment.

The appeal hearing function will also be transferred from the Governor to the Administrative Appeals Board as the appeals concern primarily registration and licensing matters.

"By improving the efficiency of the current procedures and strengthening the enforcement arrangements, the proposed amendments will enable Hong Kong to discharge more effectively its international obligations to protect the earth's ozone layer," the spokesman said.

"The Bill has been endorsed by the Advisory Council on the Environment. All registered importers and exporters of scheduled substances and major trade organisations raised no objection to the proposed amendments."

End

SWD distributes blankets to street sleepers

\* \* \* \* \*

Staff of the Social Welfare Department distributed a total of 371 blankets to street sleepers in a territory-wide operation during the cold spell early this (Friday) morning.

Of the total, 141 were distributed in West Kowloon, 28 in East Kowloon, 154 on Hong Kong Island, 36 in New Territories East and 12 in New Territories West.

Meanwhile, the department's hotline 2343 2255 received a total of 29 calls between 12 am and 9 am this morning.

Among the calls, eight were relating to cold spell matters where two of them required further outreaching service.

End

Education prepares visually impaired for a career

\* \* \* \* \*

One of the fundamental aims of the educational effort is to prepare visually impaired students for the pursuit of a satisfying career upon leaving school, the Director of Education, Mrs Helen C P Lai Yu, said today (Friday).

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the Asian and Pacific Regional Seminar on Information Technology for the Visually Impaired People, Mrs Yu noted that information technology played a key role in enhancing the life of visually impaired people.

The Education Department has since 1990 provided adaptive aids to facilitate the use of computers, and the Government subvented essential technical devices including circuit television, navigator, optacon for the training of visually impaired students in special schools, she said.

"To meet our students' needs in different educational settings and to promote full integration, visually impaired students in mainstream schools are given assistance to use the high-tech aids at the Ebenezer School, a special school for visually impaired children," Mrs Yu said.

She hoped that visually impaired people could increasingly benefit from the technological advances in varied aspects of life.

"Given suitable technical devices, visually impaired people can do better still and contribute more extensively to services for our community," she added.

End

#### 105 VMs depart on orderly repatriation flight

\* \* \* \* \*

A group of 105 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) returned by air to Hanoi, Vietnam today (Friday) on the 83rd flight under the Orderly Repatriation Programme (ORP).

All the returnees, comprising 35 men, 25 women, 28 boys and 17 girls, are from South and Central Vietnam.

The majority of them arrived in Hong Kong in 1991, with the remaining in 1989 and 1990.

The group brought to 8,172 the total number repatriated on ORP flights since November 1991.

End

#### Monitors' report submitted to CS

\* \* \* \* \*

The monitors appointed to observe the Orderly Repatriation Programme operation this (Friday) morning have submitted their report to the Chief Secretary.

The two monitors comprised a non-official Justice of the Peace, Ms Christina Ting Yuk-chee ; and representative from a non-government organisation, Ms Kitty Wan Chi-yin from Oxfam, Hong Kong.

End

### Publicity on Calling Number Display under way

\* \* \* \* \*

Following the issue of a statement by the Telecommunications Authority on September 16 this year which allows the introduction of Calling Number Display (CND) service in Hong Kong, a number of operators have expressed interest in offering the service.

The first CND service will be provided by some fixed and mobile operators from December 16.

To enhance public awareness of this service which has a bearing on all telephone users in Hong Kong, the Government has started a publicity programme, and will see to it that service providers are giving sufficient notice to their customers on how the service operates.

Besides explaining the benefits of CND, the Government would also ensure that the public understands the privacy implications of the service.

To know more about the CND service and the rights of individual telephone users, a detailed information leaflet on CND is available from any of the Post Offices or District Offices.

For general enquiries, a hotline 2961 6655 is also available during office hours.

End

### Tax evasion conviction and sentence appeal dismissed

\* \* \* \* \*

The Court of Appeal today (Friday) dismissed an appeal lodged by a 39-year-old insurance agent against both the conviction of tax evasion charges and sentence.

The appellant, Paul Ng Wing-keung, is a senior agency manager of National Mutual Company Limited and the proprietor of Paul Ng & Company.

He was convicted of eight counts of tax evasion on May 27. On June 24, he was sentenced to three months' imprisonment on each charge to run concurrently and was ordered to pay a fine of \$10,000 on each charge and a further fine of \$840,000, approximating three times of the total tax evaded. The total fine imposed was \$920,000.

The Court of Appeal with acting Chief Justice Power, Justices Bokhary and Stuart-Moore after hearing the submission made by the counsel for the appellant, immediately dismissed the appeal against conviction and confirmed the sentence.

A spokesman for the Inland Revenue Department today reminded the public that tax evasion is a criminal offence.

Upon conviction, the maximum sentence is three years' imprisonment, a fine of \$50,000 on each charge and a further fine of trebles the amount of tax undercharged.

End

#### RTGS system to commence on Monday

\* \* \* \* \*

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announced today (Friday) that it has informed the banks that the interbank payment system will proceed with data conversion this weekend with a view to cut-over to the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system on Monday (December 9).

The announcement was made after a series of simulation tests which finished on December 4.

To tie in with the launch of RTGS on Monday, a Gazette notice was issued today to invoke the commencement of several sections of the Hong Kong Association of Banks (Amendment) Ordinance 1995 in order to conform with the new settlement structure for interbank payments.

Under the new structure, all licensed banks are required to open accounts with the Monetary Authority on behalf of the Exchange Fund for settlement purposes.

The HKMA will convert the data from the present system to the new system during this weekend to prepare for full implementation of the RTGS system at 9 am on Monday.

Following the implementation of the RTGS system, the format of the Reuters screen showing interbank liquidity will be slightly modified (see revised screen format below).

The format is very similar to the existing format. There will be a time track showing the aggregate balance of the Settlement Accounts maintained by banks with the HKMA.

In addition, the screen will also show the opening and the closing aggregate balances of the Settlement Accounts and information on LAF and money market operations.

The preparation of the RTGS system dates back to January 1994 when the HKMA Working Party on Payment and Settlement System recommended that Hong Kong should move to RTGS as soon as possible.

A Committee on Payment System, chaired by the Chief Executive of HKMA with representatives from leading banks in Hong Kong, was set up on May 31, 1994 to provide policy input on the implementation of RTGS in Hong Kong.

The Committee agreed in early 1995 to move speedily to RTGS with a scheduled commencement date before the end of 1996. This timetable has been met.

Format of Reuters Screen

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY  
INTERBANK LIQUIDITY

(Date)		TIME	AGGREGATE BALANCE OF SETTLEMENT ACCOUNTS
	OPENING AGGREGATE BALANCE	MN 09:30 HR	MN
	CLOSING AGGREGATE BALANCE	MN 10:00 HR	MN
	CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :	11:00 HR	MN
	MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	MN 12:00 HR	MN
	LAF REVERSAL	MN	
	LAF TODAY	MN 15:00 HR	MN
		16:00 HR	MN
	LAF RATE	% BID/	% OFFER TWI

End

### Get to know more about Social Welfare Department

\* \* \* \* \*

Members of the public may not know the full range of welfare services that is being offered to them by the Social Welfare Department.

But they will get the answer from an exhibition and professional workers during the department's open day tomorrow (Saturday).

Twenty departmental service units throughout the territory will open their doors to visitors as part of its week-long activities to tie in with the Government's Serving the Community Week programme from December 1 to 7.

The opening hours will vary between 10 am and 9 pm to between 10 am and 5 pm.

Highlighting the open day event will be a grand opening ceremony at the Princess Alexandra Community Centre at Tai Ho Road, Tsuen Wan, starting 2 pm.

Officiating guests will be the Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok; the Chairman of the Legislative Council Welfare Panel, Mr Li Wah-ming; Legislative Councillor Dr Law Chi-kwong; the Chairman of the Social Welfare Advisory Committee, Mr Peter Wong; the Chairman of the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, Dr Raymond Wu; and the Chairman of the Tsuen Wan District Board, Mr Chan Lau-fong.

Visitors will be able to see an exhibition, a band performance, boy scout skill demonstration and a calligraphic display, and to take part in a quiz and several games stalls.

End

### Industry Department joins the Serving the Community Week

\* \* \* \* \*

The Standards and Calibration Laboratory (SCL) of Industry Department held an open day today (Friday) as part of the Serving the Community Week programme.

The Serving the Community Week, which runs from December 1 to 7, is initiated by the Efficiency Unit of the Government Secretariat with the aim of promoting the importance of delivering quality services to the community by government departments.

Guided tours were organised for some 200 invited guests throughout the day. The guests included leading industrialists, representatives from tertiary education institutions, industrial support organisations, and clients of SCL.

They were first briefed on the organisation and work of the Quality Services Division of the Industry Department in helping Hong Kong industry maintain its competitive edge.

They were then taken on a tour of the various laboratories of SCL and saw for themselves the state-of-the-art measurement systems and facilities there. These laboratories were: Direct Current Laboratory, Low Frequency Laboratory, Radio Frequency Laboratory, Temperature Laboratory, Mass Laboratory and Dimensional Laboratory.

"Set up in 1984, SCL forms part of an important technological infrastructure provided by the Government to promote high-tech manufacturing in Hong Kong," said Mr A J Rocha, head of SCL.

The guests were told that the laboratory, which had in recent years upgraded some of its measurement standards, maintained a number of primary standards which were of the highest accuracy. These included the primary standards of time and frequency, electrical voltage, microwave power and impedance, and temperature.

SCL provides comprehensive calibration services to enable manufacturers and other organisations to achieve quality assurance in their measurement systems.

Its clients include government departments and organisations from the private sector, covering a diverse range of activities including testing services, power generation, telecommunication services, transportation, manufacturing industry, construction, tertiary education, environmental and health, weights and measures.

At the end of the visit, Mr Rocha said: "The Industry Department will continue its effort in promoting the application of quality assurance and excellence in industrial performance through the operation of SCL."

Apart from the open day programme, the department took part in the "Serving the Community Carnival" on Sunday (December 1) in Fa Hui Park.

End

Christmas postal service arrangements

\* \* \* \* \*

The acting Postmaster General, Mr P C Luk, announced today (Friday) that the latest date for posting Christmas mail for local delivery before Christmas is Friday, December 20.

"Postings after this date might run the risk of not being delivered in time because of anticipated seasonal pressure of work," he said.

He advised members of the public to post as early as possible to avoid a last minute rush.

Mr Luk also said that a special mail delivery would be provided on Sunday, December 22 and Thursday, December 26. No delivery would be made on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

All post offices will be closed during the Christmas and New Year holidays. However, one mail collection will be arranged for all street posting boxes except those on outlying islands and in remote areas. The time of collection is shown on the time-plate of each posting box.

"This arrangement will serve to advance the processing of letters posted during the holidays and hence improve our quality of letter service to the public," said Mr Luk.

End

Board amends draft Tsim Sha Tsui Outline Zoning Plan

\* \* \* \* \*

The Town Planning Board today (Friday) announced amendments to the draft Tsim Sha Tsui Outline Zoning Plan.

The amendments cover three government sites in Tsim Sha Tsui area, namely the old Kowloon Market and its extension, the Marine Police Headquarters Compound (MPHQ) and Canton Road Police Married Quarters.

The old Kowloon Market and its extension at the junction of Peking Road and Kowloon Park Drive, with an area of about 0.21 hectare, has been rezoned from "Comprehensive Development Area" ("CDA") to "Commercial".

Meanwhile, the set of notes of the "CDA" zoning of MPHQ, which is adjoining the old Kowloon Market site, has been revised to reflect the planning intention of preserving the historical and urban design significance of the compound.

The Canton Road Police Married Quarters site located at the junction of Canton Road and Austin Road, with an area of about one hectare, has been rezoned from "Government/Institution/Community" to "Residential (Group A)" for the development of about 1,640 private residential flats.

The amendment plan (No S/K1/10) is available for public inspection until December 27, 1996 during normal office hours at:

- \* Planning Department, 16th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong;
- \* Kowloon District Planning Office, 11th floor, Leighton Centre, 77 Leighton Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong; and
- \* Yau Tsim Mong District Office, Mong Kok Government Offices, ground floor, 30 Luen Wan Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon.

Any person affected by the amendments may submit written objections to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Planning Department, 13th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong before December 27, 1996.

Copies of the draft plan are available for 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

Building of access roads to developments on Ma Wan

\* \* \* \* \*

The Governor-in-Council has authorised the construction of roads to provide access to developments on Ma Wan Island.

The main feature of the project is the construction of two six-metre wide elevated slip roads with one lane in each direction from the Lantau Link (formerly known as Lantau Fixed Crossing) to Ma Wan.

On Ma Wan Island, there will be two-way single carriageway roads of about 6.75 metres in width; and footpaths varying from 1.6 metres to two metres in width on one or both sides.

Emergency vehicular access roads within the proposed village development and the proposed theme park will also be built. At the same time, other ancillary earthworks, drainage and landscaping works will be carried out.

The project will support the proposed developments shown on the Ma Wan Outline Zoning Plan and provide a road network for traffic circulation, emergency access and pedestrian movements on Ma Wan Island. In addition, it will facilitate restricted vehicular access from Lantau Link to Ma Wan.

The project will involve resumption of some private land on Ma Wan Island. Affected land owners and persons will be compensated in accordance with provisions under the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance.

It is expected that works on the project will commence in the middle of next year and takes about four years to complete.

End

Prequalification exercise for runway monitor tower

\* \* \* \* \*

The Architectural Services Department (Arch SD) is inviting approved contractors to participate in a prequalification exercise for the construction of a precision runway monitor tower and back-up air traffic control (ATC) facilities at the new airport in Chek Lap Kok.

The project comprises the construction of a five-level monitor tower built on top of a four-level back-up ATC complex to accommodate the precision runway monitor system, the back-up ATC Centre and back-up communication centre as well as all necessary equipment for various government departments.

Those on the Approved Contractors for Public Works List I in Group C for Building Works (confirmed) or on the List II for Building Works (confirmed) are invited to apply for pre-qualification documents from Chief Architect/1, Arch SD, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Completed applications should be submitted as directed not later than noon on December 27, 1996.

End

Tenders for public sewerage facilities in Sai Kung invited

\* \* \* \* \*

The Drainage Services Department is inviting tenders for the laying of sewers and rising mains and construction of six sewage pumping stations in Sai Kung.

Public sewerage facilities will be built in the areas of Silverstrand, Tai Wan and Sha Ha to improve the sanitary condition of the existing unsewered areas and the water quality of Port Shelter.

The project will involve the laying of about 6,500 metres long sewers with diameters ranging from 150 to 450 millimetres, and about 2,100 metres long rising mains with diameters ranging from 100 millimetres to 300 millimetres.

Six sewage pumping stations will also be built. They are Tai Wan Pumping Station, Ngan Yan Road Pumping Station, Silver Star Path Pumping Station, Silver Cape Road Pumping Station, Sapphire Path Intermediate Pumping Station and Pik Sha Road Pumping Station.

Following the completion of the sewerage works, sewage generated from Silverstrand areas will be collected and conveyed to the existing Tseung Kwan O Sewage Treatment Works while that collected from Tai Wan and Sha Ha areas will be conveyed to the existing Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works for treatment and disposal.

As a result, the pollutant currently being discharged from these areas into Port Shelter will be reduced.

Construction will commence in March next year for completion in about two years.

Details of the tender invitation are contained in the Government Gazette published today (Friday).

Forms of tender and further particulars may be obtained from the Chief Engineer, Sewerage Projects Division, Drainage Services Department, 44th floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Hong Kong.

Tenders must be clearly marked and addressed to the Chairman of the Central Tender Board. They must be placed in the Government Secretariat Tender Box at the lift lobby on the lower ground floor, Central Government Offices (East Wing), Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong, before noon on Friday, January 3, 1997.

Late tenders will not be accepted.

End

#### Reconstruction of jetty at Ha Keng on Lantau

\* \* \* \* \*

The Government intends to reconstruct the jetty at Ha Keng in Lantau within an area of about 660 square metres of foreshore and seabed.

The project is to provide direct access to the south-eastern coast of the Chi Ma Wan peninsula.

Works will commence in February for completion in June next year.

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

Any person who considers that he has an interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and seabed involved may submit a written objection to the Director of Lands on or before February 6, 1997.

The notice of such objection should describe the interest, right or easement of the objector and the manner in which he alleges he will be affected.

The notice (in both English and Chinese) together with the related plan can be seen on notice boards posted near the site.

The plan can also be seen at the Lands Department's Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong (where copies can be purchased on order) and at the Islands District Office, 20th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.

End

#### Tenders for construction of water treatment facilities

\* \* \* \* \*

The Water Supplies Department is inviting tenders for the construction of sludge treatment and disposal facilities at its three water treatment works in Shek Lei Pui, Tai Po Road and Tsuen Wan respectively.

The contract will involve construction of two sludge thickening tanks, five sludge balancing tanks, four washwater recovery tanks and ancillary works in the three treatment works.

Works are expected to commence in March next year for completion in about 12 months.

Forms of tender and further particulars may be obtained from the office of Montgomery Watson Hong Kong Limited, 1911 Windsor House, 311 Gloucester Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.

Tender offers will close at noon on Friday, January 31, 1997.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

\*\*\*\*\*

		<u>Time</u>	<u>Cumulative change</u>
Opening balance in the account	4,112 MN	0930 HR	+390 MN
Closing balance in the account	4,155 MN	1000 HR	+390 MN
Change attributable to:		1100 HR	+400 MN
Money market activity	+2,363 MN	1200 HR	+401 MN
LAF today	-2,320 MN	1500 HR	+2366MN
		1600 HR	+2363MN

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.7 \*-0.3\* 6.12.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF Bills		EF Notes/MTRC Notes				
Terms	Yield	Terms	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.33	2 years	2811	5.72	100.21	5.68
1 month	4.34	3 years	3910	6.28	100.73	6.08
3 months	4.56	5 years	5109	7.32	103.04	6.67
6 months	4.76	7 years	7311	6.80	99.63	6.99
12 months	5.13	10 years	1610	7.37	101.73	7.25
		5 years	M503	7.35	101.88	6.99

Total turnover of EF Bills and Notes - \$54,199 million

Closed December 6, 1996

End