



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Transcript of Governor's media session

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Following is the transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, after visiting Kwun Tong District this (Wednesday) afternoon:

Question: I presume you saw the transcript from the ABC TV programme in an interview with Mr Tung Chee Hwa?

Governor: No. But go on.

Question: Well, he gave a personal commitment to freedom to protest in Hong Kong; he gave a number of reassuring statements. Are you aware of ...?

Governor: Yes, I have seen the tapes.

Question: And how do you respond to them? Do you feel that they were adequate?

Governor: I think that - like quite a lot of people in Hong Kong - I have been quite surprised by this sudden controversy about public order and the Societies Ordinance. It suggests a view of Hong Kong which I don't think most of us hold. If Hong Kong is as stable as people now admit and if there are going to be no real restrictions on people's right to demonstrate, then what has all this argument been about and why are changes being proposed in the Public Order Ordinance and in the Societies Ordinance?

Of course, in a civilised community like this, we can put our trust in the honesty of the leaders of our community. But even more important is to put one's trust in the rule of law because we have a society which is governed by laws, not run by men. Men come together in a Legislative Council to make the laws but it is the rule of law, rather than individual decisions by men or women, that really matters.

So my reaction is that I remain puzzled why it has been suggested that the Public Order Ordinance and the Societies Ordinance should be amended. I very much hope that the views that have been expressed during the consultation period - which I of course welcomed - will be listened to. There is another extremely powerful statement by the Chairman of the Bar Association this morning, for example, which I hope will get the attention which it deserves. And I very much hope that at the end of the consultation process we can be told that it is not really necessary to change these laws and Hong Kong people can continue to be trusted to behave responsibly and with moderation, as they do today.

Question: So you are saying that Mr Tung's personal commitment is not enough, that -

Governor: I am saying that in a society in which the rule of law determines our behaviour and determines the balance between the individual and society's overall needs, it is the rule of law that we have to put our trust in. If the law is changed, you can't go into court and say, "Ah, but this or that political leader said it would be all right". The law is the law. So I welcome, of course, what Mr Tung said, and I am sure he meant what he said, but I think it just raises question marks about why there are going to be changes on the law, on demonstrations for example, if nobody is going to be stopped from demonstrating.

Question: Governor, the British Election is coming, so what do you think about the outcome? And will the outcome concern a different policy towards Hong Kong?

Governor: As I am sure you appreciate, it would not be appropriate for me to comment on the outcome of the General Election in the United Kingdom, but I will give you a forecast. The General Election will be won by either the Labour Party or the Conservative Party, or perhaps the Liberal Democratic Party, but I don't think I want to say any more than that.

Let me now deal with the serious point you raised as far as Hong Kong is concerned. Policy on Hong Kong has had cross-party support at Westminster. That has been very important for us in Hong Kong over the last few years and I don't believe that will change for one moment, whatever happens in the ballot-box in the United Kingdom tomorrow. I have kept in regular touch with the Prime Minister and ministers. I have kept equally in very close touch with leaders of the opposition; with the present Leader of the Labour Party, with the past Leader of the Labour Party, John Smith, with both the Labour Shadow Foreign Secretaries who have been in post while I have been Governor, and with their deputies and with the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party. So my own judgment is that whatever the outcome, there won't be any change in the position as far as Hong Kong is concerned.

Question: Governor, do you think you have been co-operative with the SAR Government, because the residents were protesting that you should be more co-operative?

Governor: I think there were a small handful of United Front friends downstairs. I think that, as you well know, the Joint Declaration talks about Chinese officials co-operating with the Hong Kong Government up to 30 June, and I would like to see a bit more of that. I would like to see people co-operating sensibly with the Legislative Council which is the only constitutional legislature that we have in Hong Kong.

I think, so far as the future Government is concerned, we have given, as we promised, all the resources which they asked for. But we have made it clear right from the outset that we would not be providing any resources for the provisional legislature, for reasons which you and others well know. That has been our position and continues to be our position. And I think you probably know, as well, that there are many people who say that if the provisional legislature tries to do things before 30 June, there are likely to be legal challenges afterwards.

End

#### New measures to enhance safety of school transport

\* \* \* \* \*

A spokesman for the Transport Department today (Wednesday) reminded operators and concerned parties that a series of measures to further enhance safety of school transport will take effect tomorrow (Thursday).

Details of the new requirements are contained in the Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulation 1997.

The improvement measures applied to all school buses and nanny vans registered on or after May 1 include:

- \* Installation of a red warning light and warning buzzer to notify the driver if the main door or the emergency exit door is not completely and securely closed;
- \* At least one mirror should be fitted externally on the near side front of the vehicle to give the driver a full and clear view of the alighting passengers;
- \* Installation of a public address system or other audio devices sufficient for the driver to communicate with all passengers in the vehicle; and
- \* A new colour scheme for newly registered nanny vans.

Moreover, all buses carrying school children should display an additional "Caution: Children" rear signboard in or on the rear end of the vehicle from May 1 to alert motorists on roads.

Mandatory provision of escorts on board school buses carrying primary school and kindergarten children with a capacity of over 16 seats have already taken effect in February.

The department will closely monitor and liaise with the trade if necessary to ensure that the new requirements are carried out properly.

End

#### Monetary statistics for March 1997

\* \* \* \* \*

According to statistics published today (Wednesday) by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, deposits, loans and advances decreased during March 1997.

Table 1 summarises figures for March 1997 and comparisons with earlier months.

#### Deposits

Total deposits fell by 1.3% in March, reversing the rise of 2.8% in February. Both HK\$ deposits and foreign currency deposits decreased, by 2.2% and 0.1% respectively.

The decline in HK\$ deposits was across-the-board, including demand, savings and time deposits.

The fall in time deposits was partly due to the high base of comparison in February, when such deposits were boosted by placements of new share subscription monies before the refund dates.

The fall in foreign currency deposits was due primarily to a decrease of 1.8% in US\$ deposits, which more than offset an increase of 1.5% in non-US\$ foreign currency deposits.

#### Loans and Advances

Total loans and advances fell by 2.5% in March, reversing the rise of 2.6% in February.

Domestic credit decreased by 0.6%, as the small rise of 0.1% in loans for trade financing was outweighed by the 0.6% decline in other loans for use in Hong Kong. The fall in the latter was, however, partly the result of the high base of comparison at end-February, which was up-lifted by loans for new share subscription.

Offshore loans dropped by 4.3% in March, following an increase of 0.7% in the previous month, partly due to the valuation effect arising from the weakening of the Japanese yen during the month.

Analysed by currency, both HK\$ loans and foreign currency loans fell during the month, by 1.4% and 3.2% respectively.

As the decline in HK\$ loans was more moderate than that of HK\$ deposits, the HK\$ loan-to-deposit ratio edged up to 109.1% at end-March, from 108.2% at end-February.

#### Quarterly Analysis of Loans for Use in Hong Kong by Major Economic Sector

Loans for use in Hong Kong grew by 8.0% in the March quarter of 1997, compared with the 4.6% rise in the December quarter of 1996.

Residential mortgage loans and other property-related lending surged further during the quarter, by 7% and 9.8% respectively, along with the buoyant property market.

Likewise, loans to financial concerns and stock-brokers recorded notable growths of 12.5% and 15.5% respectively, while loans for wholesale and retail trade increased by 6.7%.

On the other hand, in line with the slack external trade performance, loans for trade financing dropped by 0.4% in the March quarter, while lending to the manufacturing sector continued to grow slowly by 3.7%.

#### Money Supply

HK\$M1 fell by 4.6% in March, as HK\$ demand deposits dropped by 6.5% and currency held by the public fell by 1.8%.

Likewise, HK\$M2 and HK\$M3 contracted by 2.2% and 2.1% in March, reflecting partly the high base of comparison in February.

Compared to a year earlier, HK\$M1, HK\$M2 and HK\$M3 rose by 13.2%, 18.5% and 18.4% respectively.

TABLE 1 : MONETARY STATISTICS - Mar 1997

	(HK\$mn)			
	Mar 1997	Earlier months (% change to Mar 1997)		
		Feb 1997	Dec 1996	Mar 1996
<b>Money Supply</b>				
M1 - HK\$	198,406	208,075 ( -4.6 )	198,311 ( 0.0 )	175,267 ( 13.2 )
Foreign currency	19,375	19,753 ( -1.9 )	19,149 ( 1.2 )	20,360 ( -4.8 )
Total	217,780	227,828 ( -4.4 )	217,460 ( 0.1 )	195,627 ( 11.3 )
M2 - HK\$@	1,557,711	1,593,462 ( -2.2 )	1,503,603 ( 3.6 )	1,314,764 ( 18.5 )
Foreign currency*	1,023,394	1,021,894 ( 0.1 )	1,003,583 ( 2.0 )	1,022,952 ( 0.0 )
Total	2,581,105	2,615,356 ( -1.3 )	2,507,186 ( 2.9 )	2,337,716 ( 10.4 )
M3 - HK\$@	1,574,880	1,609,047 ( -2.1 )	1,520,461 ( 3.6 )	1,330,061 ( 18.4 )
Foreign currency*	1,088,670	1,087,734 ( 0.1 )	1,066,126 ( 2.1 )	1,086,448 ( 0.2 )
Total	2,663,550	2,696,781 ( -1.2 )	2,586,587 ( 3.0 )	2,416,509 ( 10.2 )
Notes and coins in circulation	94,568	93,427 ( 1.2 )	87,113 ( 8.6 )	84,454 ( 12.0 )
of which held by public	81,341	82,836 ( -1.8 )	76,516 ( 6.3 )	74,476 ( 9.2 )
<b>Total Deposits</b>				
Total Demand deposits	136,439	144,992 ( -5.9 )	140,944 ( -3.2 )	121,151 ( 12.6 )
Total Savings deposits	504,542	517,482 ( -2.5 )	520,575 ( -3.1 )	457,356 ( 10.3 )
Total Time deposits	1,862,807	1,874,782 ( -0.6 )	1,771,688 ( 5.1 )	1,694,071 ( 10.0 )
With licensed banks	1,803,026	1,815,196 ( -0.7 )	1,713,243 ( 5.2 )	1,637,055 ( 10.1 )
With restricted licence banks	44,417	44,161 ( 0.6 )	42,897 ( 3.5 )	40,338 ( 10.1 )
With deposit-taking companies	15,364	15,425 ( -0.4 )	15,547 ( -1.2 )	16,678 ( -7.9 )
HK\$ deposits@	1,450,791	1,482,914 ( -2.2 )	1,400,077 ( 3.6 )	1,215,932 ( 19.3 )
Demand deposits	117,065	125,240 ( -6.5 )	121,794 ( -3.9 )	100,791 ( 16.1 )
Savings deposits	355,826	361,485 ( -1.6 )	366,109 ( -2.8 )	320,018 ( 11.2 )
Time deposits@	977,899	996,189 ( -1.8 )	912,173 ( 7.2 )	795,123 ( 23.0 )
US\$ deposits*	507,233	516,780 ( -1.8 )	517,126 ( -1.9 )	526,159 ( -3.6 )
Other foreign currency deposits*	545,764	537,563 ( 1.5 )	516,004 ( 5.8 )	530,487 ( 2.9 )
Foreign currency deposits*	1,052,997	1,054,343 ( -0.1 )	1,033,130 ( 1.9 )	1,056,646 ( -0.3 )
All deposits	2,503,788	2,537,257 ( -1.3 )	2,433,207 ( 2.9 )	2,272,578 ( 10.2 )
Foreign currency swap deposits	35,845	36,786 ( -2.6 )	38,502 ( -6.9 )	44,948 ( -20.3 )
<b>Total Loans and advances</b>				
Loans for use in H.K.	1,968,657	1,979,752 ( -0.6 )	1,822,255 ( 8.0 )	1,624,557 ( 21.2 )
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	164,080	162,598 ( 0.9 )	164,988 ( -0.6 )	158,356 ( 3.6 )
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	20,066	21,409 ( -6.3 )	19,979 ( 0.4 )	20,369 ( -1.5 )
Other loans for use in H.K.	1,784,511	1,795,745 ( -0.6 )	1,637,289 ( 9.0 )	1,445,832 ( 23.4 )
Loans for use outside H.K.#	1,953,626	2,041,205 ( -4.3 )	2,092,617 ( -6.6 )	2,076,063 ( -5.9 )
Other loans for use outside H.K.	1,910,298	2,000,601 ( -4.5 )	2,052,056 ( -6.9 )	2,036,491 ( -6.2 )
Other loans where the place of use is not known	43,328	40,603 ( 6.7 )	40,562 ( 6.8 )	39,572 ( 9.5 )
Loans in HK\$	1,582,857	1,604,565 ( -1.4 )	1,447,866 ( 9.3 )	1,287,790 ( 22.9 )
Loans in foreign currencies	2,339,425	2,416,391 ( -3.2 )	2,467,006 ( -5.2 )	2,412,830 ( -3.0 )
Total loans and advances	3,922,282	4,020,957 ( -2.5 )	3,914,873 ( 0.2 )	3,700,619 ( 6.0 )

\* Adjusted to exclude foreign currency swap deposits.

@ Adjusted to include foreign currency swap deposits.

# Including those where place of usage is unknown.

Note : Data may not add up to total due to rounding.

**TABLE 2 : QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR - MAR 1997**

<u>Sectors</u>	<u>Mar 1997</u>	<u>Adjusted# % change from earlier quarters to Mar 1997</u>		
	<u>(HK\$ Mn)</u>	<u>Dec 1996</u>	<u>Sep 1996</u>	<u>Jun 1996</u>
Trade Financing	184,146	-0.6	0.8	3.0
Manufacturing	111,520	3.7	3.7	9.5
Transport and transport equipment	82,685	-0.1	6.2	17.2
Building, construction, property development and investment	363,878	9.8	18.1	30.1
Wholesale and retail trade	188,255	6.7	5.0	12.5
Financial concerns *	233,881	12.5	23.9	31.3
Individuals:				
to purchase flats in the Home Ownership Scheme and Private Sector Participation Scheme	54,039	6.7	7.6	11.6
to purchase other residential property	396,307	7.0	14.4	26.0
other purposes	144,357	11.9	14.1	25.0
Others	209,587	15.6	19.5	23.3
Total	1,968,657	8.0	13.0	21.2

# With the introduction of the new Return on Loans and Advances and Provisions (as revised from the Return on Loans and Advances for Use in Hong Kong) as from December 1994, a number of AIs have reclassified certain components. As a result, the figures are not strictly comparable with those of previous quarters. The percentage changes given above have been adjusted, so far as possible, to remove the reclassification effect and therefore cannot be calculated directly from the published figures.

\* This excludes funds advanced to authorized institutions.

End

32 new building plans approved in March

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The Buildings Department approved a total of 32 building plans in March - six on Hong Kong Island, 14 in Kowloon and 12 in the New Territories.

The approved plans covered 14 for apartment and apartment/commercial developments, five for commercial developments, nine for factory and industrial developments, and four for community services developments.

Consent was given during the month for work to start on 43 building projects, which would provide 106,969 square metres of usable domestic floor area and 170,587 square metres of usable non-domestic floor area on completion.

The department also issued 45 Occupation Permits - six on Hong Kong island, five in Kowloon and 34 in the New Territories.

Of the buildings certified for occupation in March, the usable floor area for domestic and non-domestic uses was 84,911 square metres and 91,762 square metres respectively.

The declared cost of new buildings completed in the month totalled about \$1,424 million.

In addition, 20 demolition consents involving 24 buildings and structures were issued.

The department's Control and Enforcement Division received 815 complaints of unauthorised building works in March, and issued 225 Removal Orders on unauthorised works.

End

Governor visits Kwun Tong district

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, and Mrs Patten were updated on the general situation in Kwun Tong district during their visit today (Wednesday).

Mr and Mrs Patten first toured the Princess Alexandra Red Cross Residential School at Rehab Path to see its education, boarding care and other associated services for physically and mentally handicapped children. The school was established in 1962 and has been subvented by the Education Department since 1964.

They then took the opportunity to enjoy a Chinese opera performance in Cha Kwo Ling where celebrations for the Tin Hau Festival were going on.

The couple also visited the Multi-service Centre for the Elderly run by the Christian Family Service Centre in Shun On Estate where they were briefed on the comprehensive services the centre provides for the aged in the district.

Before concluding their visit, Mr and Mrs Patten met district board members and community leaders during a tea reception held at the Sai Tso Wan Neighbourhood Community Centre.

Accompanying them were the acting Director of Home Affairs, Mr Lui Hau-tuen, and the Kwun Tong District Officer, Mr Tsang Hing-kay.

End

#### HKMA 1996 annual report published

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The 1996 Annual Report of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) is published and tabled in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday).

The theme of this year's annual report is "Achievements and Challenges". The report reviews the achievements of the HKMA since its establishment in 1993 in four main areas of work, namely, the maintenance of monetary stability, the promotion of banking stability, the building of the financial market infrastructure and the development of Hong Kong as an international financial centre. The report also sets out the challenges for the HKMA in the years ahead.

The Hong Kong dollar continued to show remarkable stability during 1996, remaining on the strong side of the linked rate of 7.80 to US\$1. The Exchange Fund, which is a major component in the defence of the Hong Kong dollar, has continued to pose healthy growth.

Major achievements have also been made in the development of the financial market infrastructure. These include the successful launching of the Real Time Gross Settlement system in late 1996.

On the international front, Hong Kong joined the Bank for International Settlements and the International Monetary Fund's New Arrangements to Borrow. Major efforts were also undertaken in 1996 to explain to the international financial community Hong Kong's monetary arrangements through 1997.

The Hong Kong banking sector remained well capitalised, highly liquid and profitable during 1996. Continued progress was made in developing the supervisory framework. A specialist team on derivatives was established and industry guidelines on risk management for derivatives and other traded instruments were issued. A reporting framework for market risk exposures of authorised institutions was introduced.

Further steps were also taken to improve the transparency of the financial position of authorised institutions and Hong Kong now leads the way in Asia in terms of financial disclosure. A Code of Banking Practice was drafted and amendments were introduced to the Banking Ordinance for the regulation of multi-purpose stored value cards.

Mr Joseph Yam, the Chief Executive of the HKMA, said: "We have taken the opportunity of this special year of transition to take stock of the work carried out by the HKMA. We cannot be complacent and we shall endeavour to strengthen our efforts to maintain monetary and financial stability and to keep Hong Kong as a premier international financial centre."

To further widen the readership of the report and to promote understanding of the work of the HKMA, the 1996 Annual Report will be available on the Internet.

End

#### 1998 Review of television environment

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Interested parties have been invited to suggest topics to be covered by the 1998 review of the television environment, a spokesman for the Broadcasting, Culture and Sport Branch said today (Wednesday).

The Government will carry out a comprehensive review of the regulatory framework in 1998, and as the first step, the Branch is seeking views on which issues should be addressed by the review.

"We would welcome suggestions on framing the scope of the review as it is an important task which may lead to changes in both policy and legislation", the spokesman said.

"Once we have considered these and other views, and decided on the areas to be tackled, we shall invite substantive submissions on these issues, probably in the third or fourth quarter of this year, to be followed by a consultation paper in early 1998," he added.

Members of the public are also welcome to submit their views to the Broadcasting, Culture and Sport Branch, 41/F Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Hong Kong before June 15.

Enquiries may be directed to Mr Peter Bourton at 2594 6611 or Miss Eliza Yau at 2594 6620.

End

#### Placement service for teachers

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The placement service of the Education Department to help redundant teachers in aided primary schools obtaining new teaching posts will start tomorrow (Thursday).

A senior education officer, Mr C W Tsui said: "These teachers were usually made redundant by the drop in enrolment in their schools, reduction of classes owing to redevelopment of housing estates and people moving from urban area to new towns."

The department has helped some 7,450 redundant teachers in securing new teaching posts over the past years.

"We will continue to give these teachers full assistance this year. Our 100 per cent success rate over the past years owes much to the support and co-operation of school heads and school management committees for which the department is most grateful," Mr Tsui said.

End

Office Assistant awarded ISM

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Office Assistant Mr David Fong Kam-wai, who served in the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) for over 35 years, has been awarded the Imperial Service Medal.

Mr Fong, 55, had been with the Regiment since February 1960 until its disbandment in September 1995. He was the longest-serving member of the Regiment's permanent civil service staff. Despite the deep sadness which he shared with all Volunteers, Mr Fong kept working enthusiastically until the end.

After the disbandment, Mr Fong joined Government House and has since been a valued member of the Government House team.

Mr Fong received personal congratulations from the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, and Mrs Patten today (Wednesday).

End

Public Liaison Group to become Fire Safety Ambassadors

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The fourth Public Liaison Group (PLG) appointed by the Fire Services Department will become the first batch of Fire Safety Ambassadors to help promote fire safety awareness in the community.

At the first meeting of the fourth PLG yesterday (Tuesday), members responded overwhelmingly to an invitation to undertake a two-day training course for Fire Safety Ambassadors.

Chief Fire Officer and Chairman of the PLG Mr Kwok Jing-keung said members taking the training course would understand more about the work of the department and thus enabling them to better monitor the delivery of emergency fire services.

Mr Kwok hoped that when PLG members became the first batch of Fire Safety Ambassadors, they would help spread important fire prevention messages.

He said members had discussed a wide range of topics on the delivery of emergency fire and ambulance services at the first meeting.

The meeting was held after an inauguration ceremony officiated by the Director of Fire Services, Mr Peter Cheung.

Public response to the PLG was encouraging and the number of applications for membership for each term had increased annually.

Thirty members of the public from all walks of life were randomly selected from 153 applications to form the group's fourth-term membership.

End

#### Immigration Service members awarded long service insignia

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In a presentation ceremony held at the Immigration Headquarters today (Wednesday), 83 members of the Immigration Service were awarded the long and meritorious service insignia. The ceremony was officiated by the Director of Immigration, Mrs Regina Ip Lau Suk-ye, J.P..

Assistant Director, Mr Cheuk Kook-cham, J.P. and Assistant Director, Mr Choy Ping-tai and four other officers were awarded the second clasps to their medals for their 30 years of dedicated service.

First clasp, signifying 25 years of service, was presented to 9 others. Another 68 officers received the Hong Kong Disciplined Services Medals which marked their 18 years of service.

At the presentation ceremony, Mrs Ip said the award of the Hong Kong Disciplined Services Medal is to honour those who have rendered long and meritorious service as members of the Immigration Service in Hong Kong. She also congratulated all recipients and thanked them for their many years of loyalty and dedication to the Immigration Service.

End

### Royal Navy warship visits Hong Kong

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Making a routine visit to Hong Kong this week is HMS Beaver, a Type 22 frigate currently taking part in Ocean Wave '97, the Royal Navy's seven-month deployment to the Far East.

HMS Beaver will arrive at approximately 9.30 am tomorrow (Thursday) and will berth alongside the new West Wall, on reclaimed land in Victoria Harbour, adjacent to the Prince of Wales Barracks. She will depart on Tuesday (May 6) for a four-day visit to Bangkok, Thailand, followed by a maintenance period in Singapore from May 30 to June 13. HMS Beaver then deploys to Ho Chi Min, Vietnam, the first British warship to visit the country since the 1970s.

Prior to her arrival in the territory HMS Beaver had participated in Exercise Flying Fish, an air defence and anti-submarine exercise off the coast of Malaysia with Five Power Defence Agreement partners Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore.

HMS Beaver, whose home port is Plymouth, in the United Kingdom, entered service in 1984. She has an overall length of 146.1 metre and a ship's complement of 250 personnel. She has two Tyne gas turbines for cruising and two Rolls Royce Olympus gas turbines for full power giving her a maximum speed of 30 knots.

The Type 22 frigate's primary role is anti-submarine warfare. Two Lynx anti-submarine helicopters can be carried and anti-submarine torpedo tubes are fitted. The Exocet surface-to-surface missile and Sea Wolf close-range air-defence missile systems provide an all-round defence capability.

HMS Beaver is commanded by Captain David Lewis.

Also arriving in Hong Kong, in company with HMS Beaver, is the Fleet replenishment vessel, Royal Fleet Auxiliary Fort George. She will moor north of Peng Chau, in the western anchorage area.

End

Post Office to participate in "100 Years' Hong Kong Stamp Exhibition"

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The Postmaster General, Mr Robert Footman, announced today (Wednesday) that the Hong Kong Post Office will participate in the "100 Years' Hong Kong Stamp Exhibition" at the Hong Kong Exhibition Centre from May 1 - 4 (Thursday to Sunday).

The exhibition is organised by the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions.

The Post Office will perform stamp cancellation at the exhibition venue. Only definitive stamps without edges will be sold at the sales booth numbers 58 and 59. A cachet will be introduced for general cancellation purpose. No other special product will be issued on this occasion.

End

An Outline of Statistical Development - 1997 Edition

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"An Outline of Statistical Development" is issued annually by the Census and Statistics Department to provide a summary report on the work and development of the Government Statistical Service (GSS).

The GSS comprises the Census and Statistics Department and statistical units established in various Government departments. The publication depicts the main lines of current statistical activity and foreseen developments in the near future. Materials relating to the past are included where appropriate.

A concise description is given on the organisation of the GSS, the administration of the Census and Statistics Department, statistical legislation and data dissemination methods.

Details are given on recent statistical development in various areas, including population; labour; industry, distribution and services; prices and expenditure; external trade; national accounts; money, banking and finance; strategic planning; education; housing; medical and health; social welfare; law and order; transport; community information; urban and regional services; water supplies; and the environment.

The 1997 edition of "An Outline of Statistical Development" has just been released and is on sale at \$24 a copy.

The publication can be purchased at the Government Publications Centre, Ground Floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

It is also available for sale at the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th Floor, Wan Chai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

End

Charity donation by PMRS operators to the Community Chest

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The four Public Mobile Radiotelephone Services (PMRS) operators today (Wednesday) donated a total sum of HK\$1.1 million to the Community Chest.

According to Mr Anthony S. K. WONG, the Director-General of Telecommunications, this was the third time telecommunications operators made voluntary donations to the Community Chest in recognition of the allocation of attractive telephone numbers. He considered it beneficial for the telecommunications operators, the telecommunications users, the charitable organisations and the people in need of help.

After receiving the cheques, the Campaign Committee Chairman, Mr Charles Lee, thanked the four mobile operators for their philanthropy to the 140 social welfare agencies supported by the Community Chest and the tens of thousands of beneficiaries.

"I am also grateful to the Office of the Telecommunications Authority for making this number block assignment a charity once again, subsequent to the PCS operators charity donations in November 1996.

"This certainly helps us achieve this year's target of raising HK\$190 million and more importantly, sets an example for others to follow. The Chest and I look forward to continuous support from the community to help those in need," said Mr Lee.

The number blocks allocated to the PMRS operators are as follows:

PMRS Operators	Number Blocks allocated
Hong Kong Telecom CSL Limited	926X XXXX
Pacific Link Communications Limited	933X XXXX
Hutchison Telephone Company Limited	936X XXXX
SmarTone Mobile Communications Limited	938X XXXX

Donations ranging from HK\$600,000 to HK\$100,000 were made by SmarTone Mobile Communications Limited, Pacific Link Communications Limited, Hutchison Telephone Company Limited (as part of Hutchison Telecommunications (Hong Kong) Limited) and Hong Kong Telecom CSL Limited.

Also present at the ceremony besides Mr Wong and Mr Lee were Mrs Elizabeth Lee, Marketing Director, Hutchison Telecommunications (Hong Kong) Limited; Mr Henry Goldstein, Executive Director, Pacific Link Communications Limited; Mr Patrick Tam, General Manager, Administration & Special Projects, Pacific Link Communications Limited; Mr Hubert Ng, Chief Executive Officer, SmarTone Mobile Communications Limited; and Mr Adam Wong, Director, Mobile Networks, Hong Kong Telecom CSL Limited.

End



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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This arrangement has ensured that existing DIB subscribers as well as the general public can have quicker access to the press releases issued daily by the Hong Kong Government through the Information Superhighway.

Following the upgrading of services, the DIB will no longer be printed in hard copies and distributed by post to subscribers with effect from May 1, 1997.

This decision will do good to the community at large in terms of environmental protection as 3.1 million sheets of A4-size paper will be saved each year, not to mention the saving of postage and large quantity of ink for printing.

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It is the policy of this department that we should aim at running a paperless office in the long run, but if you have difficulties in the new arrangements, please contact the undersigned at 2842 8738.

*Robert Yip*

(Robert YIP)

for Director of Information Services

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# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
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HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

## SUPPLEMENT

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

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Factories & Industrial Undertakings (Amendment) Bill 1997

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a speech by the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, in moving the second reading of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Amendment) Bill 1997 in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move the second reading of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Amendment) Bill 1997.

The Bill proposes to increase the levels of fines on employers and employees breaching the general duties provisions of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance (FIUO), Chapter 59.

There is increasing public concern, including Members of this Council, that the fines for breaches of industrial safety laws do not reflect the gravity of the offences. The matter was discussed in the Labour Advisory Board (LAB) in October 1996, where a consensus was reached that the maximum fine for employers breaching sections 6A(3) and (4) of the FIUO should be raised from the present level of \$200,000 to \$500,000. The new level of fine is in line with that for the offence of failure to comply with a suspension notice under the FIUO and the very serious offences under other safety legislation, for example, the Lifts & Escalators (Safety) Ordinance. The LAB also agreed that the maximum fine for employees under section 6B(2) of the FIUO should also be increased by the same proportion, i.e. from the present level of \$10,000 to \$25,000. The Administration has accepted the recommendation of the LAB, and this Bill seeks to increase the levels of fines accordingly.

The Hong Kong Construction Association and the Hong Kong Construction Industry Employees' General Union have indicated their support for the proposed increase in fines based on the spirit of shared responsibility between employers and employees in the promotion of industrial safety.

Finally, I wish to explain why the present Bill could not have been introduced into this Council earlier. It was originally our plan to introduce, together with this Bill, a new regulation under the FIUO which requires the implementation of a safety management system in selected industrial undertakings. However, considerable legal and technical problems and resultant delays have arisen in the drafting of the new regulation on the safety management system. We have therefore decided to introduce the FIU (Amendment) Bill 1997 first. We still plan to submit the new FIU (Safety Management) Regulation, when it is ready, to Members for approval later in the current session.

Thank you, Mr President.

End

#### Inland Revenue (Amendment) Bill 1997

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is the speech by the acting Secretary for the Treasury, Mr Kevin Ho, in moving the second reading of the Inland Revenue (Amendment) Bill 1997 in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move that the Inland Revenue (Amendment) Bill 1997 be read the second time.

This is the first of the six Bills which I will introduce today to give effect to the revenue proposals in the 1997-98 Budget, which Members have recently debated in this Council.

The Bill before Members seeks to increase the salaries tax allowances and the maximum deduction for training expenses as announced in the Budget. It also seeks to rationalise the marginal salaries tax structure.

I would first like to remind Members of the detailed increases in allowances and training deduction. The basic and married person's allowances will be increased by 11.1 per cent from \$90,000 to \$100,000 and from \$180,000 to \$200,000 respectively. The first and second child allowance will be increased by 10.2 per cent from \$24,500 to \$27,000. The allowance for the third to ninth child will be increased by 12 per cent from \$12,500 to \$14,000. The allowances for dependent parents, grandparents and brothers and sisters will be increased by 10.2 per cent from \$24,500 to \$27,000 while the additional allowance for dependent parents and grandparents will be increased by 14.3 per cent from \$7,000 to \$8,000.

To recognise the special difficulties faced by single parents and families caring for dependants with a disability, the allowances for single parents and disabled dependants will be increased by 66.7 per cent from \$45,000 to \$75,000 and from \$15,000 to \$25,000 respectively. To encourage our work force to upgrade its professional and technical qualifications so as to keep Hong Kong as a premier centre for business in the world, the maximum deduction for training expenses will be increased by 66.7 per cent from \$12,000 to \$20,000 a year.

As for the marginal salaries tax structure, the Bill seeks to standardise the band widths at \$30,000 and the rates at uniform intervals of 6 per cent. Let me explain the changes -

- (a) the first band will be widened from \$20,000 to \$30,000, and the rate will be kept at the current low level of 2 per cent;
- (b) the width of the second band will be maintained at \$30,000, but the rate will be reduced from 9 per cent to 8 per cent;
- (c) the width of the third band will also be maintained at \$30,000, but the rate will be reduced from 17 per cent to 14 per cent; and
- (d) the top marginal tax rate will be kept at the current level of 20 per cent.

The rationalisation will give added relief to middle-income salaries taxpayers, especially the "sandwich class". It will not affect the tax net.

I believe that there is wide support in both the community and this Council for the proposed salaries tax concessions following their announcement in the Budget.

Mr President, with these remarks, I commend the Bill to Members.

End

Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 1997

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is the speech by the acting Secretary for the Treasury, Mr Kevin Ho, in moving the second reading of the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 1997 in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move that the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 1997 be read the second time.

The Bill mainly seeks to implement the 1997-98 Budget proposal to provide certainty in law in respect of the deduction in the assessment of profits of foreign withholding tax paid by a company on income which is subject to profits tax in Hong Kong. It seeks to allow the foreign withholding tax deduction irrespective of whether the company concerned is controlled or managed in Hong Kong. This reflects a judicial decision that foreign withholding tax charged on income or turnover is a legitimate expense and should be deductible in determining assessable profits regardless of the residency status of the company concerned. The amendment will encourage overseas companies to set up branch operations in Hong Kong, thereby strengthening our status as an international financial and commercial centre.

The opportunity is also taken to amend the Inland Revenue Ordinance in order to improve the operation of the Board of Review (Inland Revenue) and other aspects of the Ordinance. The amendments involved are minor and technical in nature and do not have major taxation policy implications.

Mr President, with these remarks, I commend the Bill to Members.

End

Estate Duty (Amendment) Bill 1997

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is the speech by the acting Secretary for the Treasury, Mr Kevin Ho, in moving the second reading of the Estate Duty (Amendment) Bill 1997 in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move that the Estate Duty (Amendment) Bill 1997 be read the second time.

The Bill seeks to adjust the exemption level for estate duty and the thresholds of the marginal tax bands, as proposed in the 1997-98 Budget, which Members have recently debated. Specifically, the Bill seeks to increase the estate duty exemption level from \$6.5 million to \$7 million. Estate duty will be payable at 6 per cent on estates of values between \$7 million and \$8.5 million, 12 per cent on estates of values between \$8.5 million and \$10 million, and 18 per cent in respect of estates of values over \$10 million.

Mr President, with these remarks, I commend the Bill to Members.

End

#### Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill 1997

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is the speech by the acting Secretary for the Treasury, Mr Kevin Ho, in moving the second reading of the Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill 1997 in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move that the Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill 1997 be read the second time.

We made adjustments to stamp duty on property transactions in the 1996-97 Budget in order to benefit buyers of lower to medium-value flats. Increases in property prices have eroded this concession since the last Budget. To continue with our commitment to encourage home ownership, the Financial Secretary has proposed in the 1997-98 Budget to restore the effect of the concession by adjusting the threshold values for the various stamp duty bands in order to benefit those buying flats with values up to \$4 million. This Bill seeks to put the proposal into effect, following Members' debate on the Budget.

Specifically, the Bill seeks to increase the limit of property value below which only the nominal stamp duty of \$100 is charged, from \$750,000 to \$1 million. The rate of 0.75 per cent will apply to properties with values of \$1 million to \$2 million; the rate of 1.5 per cent will apply to properties with values of \$2 million to \$3 million; the rate of 2 per cent will apply to properties with values of \$3 million to \$4 million; and the threshold at which the maximum rate of 2.75 per cent begins to apply will be raised from \$3.5 million to \$4 million.

The proposed concession will bring relief to home buyers purchasing lower to medium-value flats, in particular the Home Ownership Scheme and Sandwich Class Housing Scheme flat buyers. The concession should not fuel speculation in the market for properties with values below \$4 million, which is not the main target of speculators. While the concession would help to relieve the financial burden on genuine flat buyers, the actual amount involved, which would constitute a part of the overall property transaction cost, would not be sufficient by itself to provide additional financial incentives to attract speculators.

Mr President, with these remarks, I commend the Bill to Members.

End

#### Dutiable Commodities (Amendment) Bill 1997

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is the speech by the acting Secretary for the Treasury, Mr Kevin Ho, in moving the second reading of the Dutiable Commodities (Amendment) Bill 1997 in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move that the Dutiable Commodities (Amendment) Bill 1997 be read the second time.

Specifically the Bill seeks to increase the duty rates for tobacco, fuel and methyl alcohol by 6%, in line with inflation, so as to maintain the real value of the duties. This is consistent with our overall budgetary strategy whereby we aim at maintaining the yield in real terms from the various sources of revenue to ensure financial stability.

The Bill also seeks to reduce the ad valorem duty rate on wine from 90 per cent to 60 per cent. The reduction will benefit consumers, the tourist industry and our business in general.

The revision of duties already came into effect on 12 March 1997 under a Public Revenue Protection Order signed by the Governor, which is valid for four months. We note that the duty increases have been generally accepted by the community. As for the duty reduction in wine, we have asked the Consumer Council to monitor the response in the retail market in order to ascertain whether the benefit of the duty reduction has been passed on to consumers. As reported by the Consumer Council, major retailers have responded positively and there has been a price cut of 10-15% after the duty revision came into effect. Other retailers are expected to follow suit after their old stock with duty paid at the 90% rate has been exhausted.

The opportunity is also taken to increase the penalty for offences relating to the marking and the detreatment of marking of diesel oil under the Dutiable Commodities (Marking and Colouring of Hydrocarbon Oil) Regulations so as to enhance the deterrent effect against illegal activities on diesel oil. We propose to raise the maximum penalty from the current level of a fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months to a fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for two years - the same as that for offences relating to the illegal use of marked oil under the Regulations. We have also taken the opportunity to clarify the interpretation of a minor provision in the legislation.

Mr President, with these remarks, I commend the Bill to Members.

End

#### Second reading of Bill to enforce maintenance orders

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is the speech by the acting Secretary for Home Affairs, Mrs Stella Hung, in moving the second reading of the Marriage and Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 1997 in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move that the Marriage and Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 1997 be read a second time.

The Bill seeks to amend four ordinances which deal with maintenance orders and also custody, supervision and care orders for children. The four ordinances are:- Guardianship of Minors Ordinance, Separation and Maintenance Orders Ordinance, Matrimonial Causes Ordinance and Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Ordinance.

The Bill has four objectives.

The first is to facilitate the collection and enforcement of maintenance payments. We are aware that at present, where a maintenance payer defaults in payments, the maintenance payee has to go through time-consuming and complicated court proceedings in order to enforce the maintenance orders. Enforcement is extremely difficult where the maintenance payer has changed address without notifying the maintenance payees.

These concerns, among others, were addressed by a Working Group, appointed by the Chief Justice, to review practices and procedures relating to matrimonial proceedings. The Working Group published a report in August 1996.

After considering the Working Group's recommendations, we propose that where a maintenance payer has defaulted in payment without reasonable cause, the court may issue an order to attach his income, for example, to require his employer to deduct payments from his wages and pay the amount direct to the payee. I should make it clear here that wages are not the only income capable of being attached. An attachment order can be made also in respect of other incomes, for example, dividends from the shares of a company. The proposals for attachment of income orders are contained in Clauses 6, 14 and 30 of the Bill.

To address the difficulty in tracing the whereabouts of a maintenance payer who has defaulted in payment, we propose that all maintenance payers should be required to notify the maintenance payees concerned (or other persons specified by the court) of any change of address, by registered mail, within 14 days of such a change. Failure to comply with the requirement without reasonable excuse would constitute an offence. The proposals are contained in Clauses 5, 15 and 31 of the Bill.

The second objective of the Bill is to fill a lacuna in the existing legislation, which does not empower the court to order the sale of matrimonial property even though such a sale is often necessary for the property to be divided equitably between two spouses or ex-spouses. The Working Group mentioned earlier - and also the Court of Appeal - have suggested that legislative amendments similar to section 24A of the English Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 be enacted.

We propose that in general, the English provision should be followed. In addition, in order to give the Hong Kong court greater flexibility, we propose that the court be empowered to make such a sale order, even where no prior financial or property adjustment order has been made, if it does not consider such a prior order to be appropriate. Our proposal is contained in Clauses 22 to 24 and 33 of the Bill.

The third objective of the Bill is to rationalise and standardise the upper age limits for the making of custody, supervision, care and maintenance orders for the benefits of a child.

In the light of the Law Reform Commission's recommendations, the Age of Majority (Related Provisions) Ordinance was enacted on October 1, 1990 to provide that a person shall attain full age at the age of 18 in most cases. However, this is not provided for in the other ordinances concerned. In addition, there are inconsistencies in the upper age limits prescribed in the ordinances for custody, supervision, care and maintenance orders. For example, the age limit for care orders is 16 in the Guardianship of Minors Ordinance but 21 in the Matrimonial Causes Ordinance; for maintenance orders, the age limit is 18 in the Guardianship of Minors Ordinance and 21 in the Separation and Maintenance Orders Ordinance, while there is no upper limit in the Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Ordinance.

To remove the inconsistencies and implement the LRC's recommendations, we propose that the ordinances in question be amended whereby:-

- (a) the court may make a custody, supervision or care order up to a child's eighteenth birthday; and
- (b) the court may make a maintenance order for a period up to a child's eighteenth birthday. The order may extend beyond the child's eighteenth birthday if the child is, or will be, undergoing education or training or there are special circumstances.

The proposed amendments are contained in Clauses 2, 3, 4, 11, 17, 19, 20 and 26 to 29 of the Bill.

The fourth objective of the Bill is to amend certain gender-biased provisions in the existing legislation. Some provisions in the Separation and Maintenance Orders are biased against men because they provide for a wife, but not a husband, to apply for separation and maintenance orders. Section 8 of the Matrimonial Proceedings and Proceedings and Property Ordinance is also gender-biased because the circumstances in which a husband may claim maintenance from the wife are different from those in which a wife may claim from the husband.

In line with our policy on equal opportunities for all, we propose that either party to a marriage can apply for separation, custody or maintenance against the other party by invoking the same grounds. The proposal is contained in Clauses 10 to 13 and 25 of the Bill.

Mr President, the Bill represents one big step forward in addressing the difficulties encountered by some maintenance payees and improving the legislation concerning maintenance, custody, supervision and care orders.

With these remarks, Mr President, I commend the Bill to this Council.

End

Traffic Accident Victims (Assistance Fund) (A) Bill 1997

\*\*\*\*\*

Following is the speech by the acting Secretary for the Treasury, Mr Kevin Ho, in moving the second reading of the Traffic Accident Victims (Assistance Fund) (Amendment) Bill 1997 in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move that the Traffic Accident Victims (Assistance Fund) (Amendment) Bill 1997 be read the second time.

The Bill seeks to make consequential amendments to the Traffic Accident Victims (Assistance Fund) Ordinance to tie in with the implementation of the 1997-98 Budget proposal to issue driving licences with a validity period of ten years. The Bill is now introduced following Members' debate on the Budget. It seeks to allow for the collection of levy under the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Fund Scheme in respect of the ten-year licences.

The main legislative amendments to provide for the issue of the ten-year licences are set out in the Road Traffic (Driving Licences) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 1997. The Amendment Regulation has been made by the Secretary for Transport. It was gazetted last week and is tabled in this Council today.

Mr President, with these remarks, I commend the Bill to Members.

End

Merchant Shipping Bill 1997

\*\*\*\*\*

Following is the speech by the Secretary for Economic Services, Mr Stephen Ip, in moving the second reading of the Merchant Shipping (Liability and Compensation for Oil Pollution) (Amendment) Bill 1997 in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr Deputy President,

I move that the Merchant Shipping (Liability and Compensation for Oil Pollution) (Amendment) Bill 1997 be read a second time.

The main purpose of the Bill is to give effect to the two IMO Protocols of 1992 which amend two Conventions, namely, the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969 and the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1971. To ensure that the two Protocols will be extended to Hong Kong and continue to apply after 30 June 1997, we needed to consult the Chinese side before the Bill is introduced into LegCo for consideration and the consultation has recently been completed.

Liability and compensation for oil pollution damage caused in the areas of Contracting States by vessels are governed by the above two International Conventions. As the two Conventions are essential for international marine safety and management, they have been extended to Hong Kong by the U. K. and have been given effect in Hong Kong by the Merchant Shipping (Liability and Compensation for Oil Pollution) Ordinance. While the 1969 Liability Convention makes shipowners liable for damage from oil spills from their tankers up to a limit linked to the size of the ship and requires them to insure this liability, the 1971 Fund Convention sets up the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund which pays compensation for oil pollution damage above the shipowner's liability under the 1969 Liability Convention up to a certain level.

The objective of this Bill is to implement the amendments made by the 1992 Protocols to the two Conventions. Clause 4 of the Bill adds a new section to provide that in addition to the compensation for pollution damage, the owner of the ship involved will also be liable for compensation for the cost of preventive measures taken to deal with a threat of contamination and any further loss or damage caused by those preventive measures. According to the major amendments made by the 1992 Protocols, clauses 7 and 25 set out respectively the increased liability limit of the shipowners and the increased limit of compensation payable by the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund in respect of any one incident. The objective of these provisions is to provide better protection to Hong Kong as well as the interest of the owners of Hong Kong registered ships in the event of serious oil pollution incidents.

As a major international maritime centre, it is essential for Hong Kong to be in line with the international conventions relating to the compensation for pollution at sea.

Mr Deputy President, with these words I commend the Bill to this Council.

End

Trustee (Amendment) Bill 1997 introduced into LegCo

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is the speech by the Attorney General, Mr Jeremy Mathews, in moving the second reading of the Trustee (Amendment) Bill 1997 in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move that the Trustee (Amendment) Bill 1997 be read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to re-enact in an up-dated form certain technical provisions of the law relating to charities and to the disposition of property which are currently applied in Hong Kong by virtue of the Application of English Law Ordinance. The provisions in question are found in the Charities Procedure Act 1812 and the Illusory Appointments Act 1830.

The 1812 Act relates to trusts established for charitable purposes. At common law the Crown assumed the role of protector of charities in the general public interest. That responsibility has been discharged in practice by the Attorney General who may initiate proceedings against charitable trustees in order to secure the proper management of the trust.

However, the Attorney General is only able to exercise this power effectively if alleged abuses affecting charitable trusts are brought to his attention. The Charities Procedure Act 1812 created a procedure for doing this which can be invoked by two or more persons who complain of a breach of a charitable trust, provided they have the Attorney General's consent. Procedural provision to give effect to the Act is contained in Order 120 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

By clause 3 of the bill this procedure is preserved by placing it in the appropriate context of the Trustee Ordinance, while clause 4 makes consequential changes to the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The other enactment which this Bill seeks to re-enact in local form is the Illusory Appointments Act 1830. At common law, before that Act was passed, if an owner of property conferred on another person (for example, by a provision in his will) a power to distribute that property amongst a number of specified beneficiaries, an exercise of that power of appointment would be invalid and fail if one or more of the intended objects received only an insubstantial, illusory or nominal share, or if one or more objects, whether deliberately or inadvertently, received nothing at all.

The 1830 Act changed the common law by validating an appointment which resulted in some objects receiving only insubstantial, illusory or nominal shares in the property to be distributed. A further Act in 1874 took the reform of the common law a step further by also validating an appointment which resulted in one or more objects being excluded altogether from a share in the property.

It is important that the legal rules regarding powers of appointment should remain as they have been for more than a century to ensure certainty in the law so that lawyers are able to advise their clients with confidence when drawing up wills and other instruments affecting dispositions of property.

By clause 2 of the Bill it is therefore proposed to insert another new section in the Trustee Ordinance to preserve the law on powers of appointments in local legislation. The new provision is based on section 158 of the United Kingdom's Law of Property Act 1925 which is a consolidation of the Illusory Appointments Act 1830 and the Powers of Appointment Act 1874.

The enactment of the two new sections in the Trustee Ordinance will make the references to the Charities Procedure Act 1812 and the Illusory Appointments Act 1830 in the Schedule to the Application of English Law Ordinance redundant. Clause 5 of the Bill therefore seeks to delete those items from the Schedule.

Clause 5 also proposes to delete one other item in the Schedule to the Application of English Law Ordinance. This refers to the Charities Procedure Act 1832. The Trustee Ordinance already provides for the situation covered by the 1832 Act as a result of an amendment to section 62 which was enacted in 1995. The reference to that Act in the Schedule to the Application of English Law Ordinance should therefore be deleted.

The Administration is aware that the introduction of this Bill at this time gives the Council only a few weeks in which to consider it. However, the Administration considers that it is desirable that local legislation on these issues should be enacted before the transfer of sovereignty, and work in preparing the Bill has only just been completed. The Bill is short and aims merely to replace laws that already apply to Hong Kong. In the circumstances, I hope that this Council will have no difficulty in dealing with it before the end of this session.

Mr President, this Bill is a housekeeping measure designed to preserve some rather technical provisions of the law of property and of charitable trusts, and to make them more accessible and comprehensible. I commend the Bill to the Council.

End

Second reading of Child Abduction and Custody Bill

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a speech by the Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok, in moving the second reading of the Child Abduction and Custody Bill in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move that the Child Abduction and Custody Bill be read the Second time. The Bill proposes new domestic legislation to implement the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction in Hong Kong.

The Convention, signed at the Hague on 25 October 1980, seeks to ensure the prompt return home of a child wrongfully removed from his/her habitual place of residence in violation of custody rights. It is now in force in about 40 countries including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Bill comprises the following major provisions -

Firstly, the Bill sets out in a schedule those provisions of the Convention to which legal effect needs to be given.

Secondly, the Bill designates the Attorney General as the Central Authority and defines his powers pursuant to the obligations stipulated under the Convention.

Thirdly, the Bill designates the High Court as the judicial authority to consider applications and to give interim directions where appropriate for securing the welfare of the child concerned.

At present, if a child were abducted to another country in violation of a custody order, the custodian parent would have to apply for a court order in the jurisdiction to which the child had been taken to secure the return of the child. Given that the case would be dealt with according to the laws of the jurisdiction in which the child was being held, it frequently involved protracted litigation. The legal proceedings might also involve a full review into the merits of the original custody order which might not be recognised and enforceable in a different jurisdiction.

While ensuring a swift return of the child to his place of habitual residence, the Convention also provides for exceptional circumstances where the judicial authority concerned may in the best interest of the child refuse to order his return.

The extension of the Convention to Hong Kong is strongly supported by the legal and judicial sectors. The proposed Bill puts into effect the Convention after its extension to Hong Kong.

Thank you, Mr President.

End

#### Provision of manpower in the construction industry

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Lee Cheuk-yan and an oral reply by the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Regarding the demand for construction workers and their training, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) whether it has made an assessment of the demand and supply of construction workers in the coming five years; if so, of a breakdown of the demand and supply by work type;
- (b) if the answer to (a) above shows an imbalance in the demand and supply of construction workers, of the plan in place to resolve the problems arising from such a situation; and
- (c) of a breakdown by work type of:
  - (i) the numbers of construction workers who have participated in short or long training courses organized by the Construction Industry Training Authority, Employees Retraining Council and other public vocational training bodies respectively in the past year;
  - (ii) the number of construction workers expected to receive training provided by these organisations in the coming five years?

Reply:

Mr President,

- (a) The Education and Manpower Branch has recently formed an internal working group comprising the Housing Branch, Works Branch, the Government Economist and other relevant Government departments to conduct a special study on the likely manpower requirements of the construction industry in the next three to five years. The objective of this study is to assess the future demand and supply of the building and construction workers with a view to formulating appropriate employment and training measures.

To collate information on the demand of workers, we will shortly be sending a comprehensive questionnaire to all the Government departments responsible for public building and construction projects, the Housing Authority, the Housing Society, as well as major building contractors and developers in the private sector. Our aim is to obtain detailed information about their projected labour requirements by project type, job titles / trade type and the duration of employment.

On the supply of workers, we will make an assessment on the basis of the Government's quarterly statistics on employment and vacancies in the construction industry, the registration and placement statistics from the various employment services of the Labour Department, and the number of graduates from the various construction-related training courses provided by the Vocational Training Council (VTC), the Construction Industry Training Authority (CITA) and the Employees Retraining Board (ERB).

- (b) The purpose of the study is to estimate the extent of any imbalance between the demand and supply of construction workers in the next few years. Pending the completion of the study, it is premature to consider what specific action the Government should take to deal with the situation.

- (c)(i) According to the latest figures available from the CITA, 1,137 trainees graduated from its Basic Craft Course and 348 participants from its Construction Supervisor / Technician Training Programme in 1995-96. Both were one-year full time courses. A detailed breakdown by work type of these courses is at Annex A. A total of 1,238 and 8,023 participants completed the short or part-time courses respectively at various skill levels for different disciplines. Detailed information on these courses is at Annex B.

The VTC is also offering both craft and technician level training for the Electrical and Mechanical trades at the technician level. In 1996/97, a total of 859 craft trainees and 741 technician trainees have enrolled in such courses. Detail information on these courses is at Annex C.

The ERB provided 22 classes for 332 retrainees for the construction industry in 1996-97. In terms of work types, 124 retrainees graduated from assistant electrician training courses, 172 graduated from training courses for decoration and 36 were trained to be site administrator.

- (ii) Looking ahead, the CITA has plans to cope with the future requirement of the industry by further expanding its training programme. Specifically, the number of graduates of the various short courses is expected to increase at an average rate of 10% per year. Together with the full-time courses, CITA will have trained over 15,000 construction workers over the next five years.

The VTC plans to provide over 1,900 training places in 1997-98 at the craft and technician levels in the construction field. The VTC will, in the light of market demands, adjust its training capacity to meet Hong Kong's needs.

The ERB has not made an estimate of the number of construction workers likely to receive training through the Employees Retraining Scheme over the next few years. However, given the flexible nature of its operation, the ERB is capable of responding effectively to the retraining needs of the market.

**Annex A**  
**附件A**

**Construction Industry Training Authority 建造業訓練局 (1995/96)**

<u>One-year Full Time Course 一年全日制課程</u>		<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Graduates</u>
<b>(a) Basic Craft Course 基本工藝課程</b>			
1.	Bricklaying, Plastering & Tiling 泥水粉飾科	420	240
2.	Carpentry & Joinery 粗細木工科	300	227
3.	Painting, Decorating & Sign-writing 油漆粉飾科	160	121
4.	Plumbing & Pipe-fitting 水喉潔具科	180	160
5.	Bamboo Scaffolding 竹棚工藝科	60	17
6.	Marble Laying 雲石裝飾科	60	44
7.	Construction Plant Maintenance & Repairs 機械維修科	180	154
8.	Electrical Installation 電器裝置科	140	143
9.	Metal Works 金屬工藝科	40	31
Sub-total :		1540	1137
<b>(b) Construction Supervisor/Technician Training Programme 建造業管工/技術員訓練課程</b>			
1.	Building Construction 屋宇建造	160	141
2.	Civil Engineering 土木工程	100	109
3.	Building Services 屋宇裝備	100	98
4.	Quantity Surveying 工料測量	-	-
Sub-total :		360	348

**Construction Industry Training Authority 建造業訓練局 (1995/96)**

<u>Short Course 短期課程</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Graduates</u>
1. Bricklaying 砌磚班	60	30
2. Plastering 批盞班	120	55
3. Timber Formwork 木模板班	70	22
4. Drain Laying 渠務敷設班	-	-
5. Surveying & Setting-out 建築樓宇測量班	360	326
@6. Site Surveying 建造工地測量訓練課程	64	41
@7. Earth Moving Machines Operation 貨車吊機操作班	54	58
@8. 60 days Crawler-mounted Mobile Crane Operation 推、挖土機操作班 (60天)	) 48	) 73
@9. 60 days Wheeled Telescopic Mobile Crane Operation 履帶式固定吊臂起重機操作班 (60天)	)	)
@10. 12 days Crawler-mounted Mobile Crane Operation 推、挖土機操作班 (12天)	36	35
@11. 12 days Wheeled Telescopic Mobile Crane Operation 履帶式固定吊臂起重機操作班 (12天)	42	60
@12. Tower Crane Operation 塔式起重機操作班	48	45
13. Bar-bending 鋼筋屈扎班	96	22
@14. Truck Mounted Crane Operation 貨車吊機操作班	60	59
15. Decorative Painting* 裝修油漆班	45	36
@16. Special Course of Crane Operation 塔式起重機操作 特別訓練課程	-	-
17. Metal Formwork 金屬模板裝嵌班	-	-
18. Painting 油漆班	120	127
19. Housing Authority Plumbing & Pipe-fitting 房委會水 喉潔具課程	-	-
20. Wall & Floor Tiling 鋪瓦班	120	61
21. Welding 焊接工藝班	30	6
22. Metal Scaffolding 金屬棚架班	-	-
23. Decorative Joinery* 裝修木工班	30	24
@24. Assistant Safety Officer Course 助理安全主任班	60	71
25. Site Administrator Training Course* 地盤總務員訓練 課程	-	-
@26. Measurement Technician Training Course 工料量度 技術員班	60	53
27. Construction Purchaser & Storekeeper Course* 建造業 物料採購及倉庫管理員班	60	34
28. Bamboo Scaffolding 竹棚工	-	-
	Sub-total : 1583	1238

- Notes : @ : Technician Level 技術員程度  
 @ : Operative Level 操作程度  
 all others : Craftsman Level 技程度  
 \* Courses funding by the Employees Retraining Board  
 # Course half funded by the Employees Retraining Board

<u>Part Time Course</u>		<u>No. of graduates for the year 1996</u>
1.	Up-grading Course - Joinery 細木工深造班	14
2.	Up-grading Course - Plumbing & Pipe-fitting 水喉潔具深造班	30
3.	Window Installation Course 窗戶安裝班	6
4.	Drain-laying Course 渠務敷設班	17
5.	Evening Surveying & Setting-out Course 建築樓宇測量基本及高班	24
6.	Evening Plumbing 水喉技藝班	42
7.	Asbestos Removal Course 石棉清拆及處理訓練課程	6
8.	Construction Management Training Programme (Building) 屋宇建造管理文憑訓練課程	24
9.	Construction Management Training Programme (Civil) 土木工程管理文憑課程	22
10.	Construction Supervisor Certificate Course (Building) 屋宇建造監工證書課程	50
11.	Construction Supervisor Certificate Course (Civil) 監工土木工士證書課程	24
12.	Refresher Course for Bamboo Scaffolder 竹棚工法例重溫及工作守則證書課程 分包承建商訓練課程之工程管理課程(日間兼讀班)	-
13.	Construction Planning 施工策劃	50
14.	Financial Control 成本控制及財政預算	54
15.	Human Resources Management 人力資源管理	49
16.	Introduction to ISO 9000 Quality Assurance Systems ISO 9000 品質制度簡介	43
17.	Work & Time Study in Construction 施工進度與時間成本的分析	43
18.	Law & Insurance 法律及保險	46
19.	Introduction of the In-service Construction Material Controller Course 建造業物料質量控制員課程	25
20.	ISO 9000 Quality Systems for In-service Construction Supervisors ISO 9000品質制度內部審核課程	164
21.	Introduction to ISO 9000 Quality Systems for In-service Construction Supervisors 建造業監工 ISO 9000品質制度課程	228
22.	Building Law - Statutory Obligations 建造行業法律須知	33
23.	Roadwork Construction Management 道路建造管理	8
24.	Construction Dispute Management 建造工程紛爭的處理	16
25.	Financial Management in Construction Projects 建造工程的財政管理	19
26.	Management of Insurance for the Construction Industry 建造業保險的管理	63
27.	Upgrading Supervisory Course for Construction Craftsmen 建造工匠管理深造班	17
28.	Communication and Site Supervision 溝通技巧與地盤管理課程	49
29.	Site Administration Officer Training Course 建造工地總務主任訓練課程	-
30.	Planning for Building Project 屋宇工程策劃及籌備	26
31.	Contract Management in Construction Projects 建築工程的合約管理	27
32.	AutoCAD Basic Drafting Course 基本電腦輔助繪圖訓練課程	69
33.	AutoCAD Advanced Application and Drafting AutoCAD 高級應用及繪圖	34

34.	AutoCAD 3D Application and Drafting AutoCAD 三維空間應用及繪圖	-
35.	Intergraph Microstation Basic Application and Drafting Intergraph Microstation基本應用及繪圖	-
36.	Slope Stability and Slope Maintenance 斜坡穩固及保養	52
37.	Fire Prevention and Protection in Building 建築物消防須知	48
38.	Construction of Pre-stressed Concrete Girder Bridge 預應力混凝土橋樑之建造	18
39.	Construction Work on Reclaimed Land in Hong Kong - Problems Encountered & Engineering Solutions 堆填區上建造工程之困難及解決方法	11
40.	Erection of Cable - Supported Bridge - Hong Kong Experience 香港建造的網纜吊橋	-
41.	Diaphragm Wall and Deep Basement Construction 隔膜牆及深地庫工程	21
42.	Reinforced Concrete - Defect Diagnosis and Remedy 鑑定鋼筋混凝土損壞程度及補法方法	23
43.	Heavy Steel Structure - Construction and Quality Control 重型鋼架建築物的建造及品質控制	-
44.	Highways/Tunnel Surveying Method 公路及隧道測量技術	43
45.	Tunnelling Methods 隧道建造技術	18
46.	Construction Noise - Legislation, Monitoring and Control 建造工程噪音法例, 調控及管制	14
47.	Demolition of Building Course for Supervisors/Foremen 拆卸樓宇監工課程	64
48.	Demolition of Building Course for Plant Operators 拆卸樓宇機械操作員課程	3
49.	Contractual Claims in the Construction Industry 建築合約索償課程	-
50.	Theory Upgrading for In-service Levellers 平水繩墨理論基礎課程	37
51.	Theory Upgrading for In-service Plumbers 水喉理論基礎課程	169
52.	Basic Building Services for Quantity Surveying Personnel 適合工料測人員修讀之屋宇設備基礎課程	-
53.	Basic Quantity Surveying Principles for Building Services Personnel 適合屋宇設備工程人員修讀之工料測量課程	-
54.	Graduate Certificate in Strategic Asset Management 策略性資產管理專業證書課程	-
55.	Construction Safety Officer Course 建造業安全主任課程	95
56.	Construction Safety Supervisor Course 建造業安全督導員訓練課程	229
57.	Construction Safety Supervisor Course for CST trainees 建造業訓練局管工班之建造業安全督導員訓練課程	334
58.	Standard First Aid Certificate Course 急救證書課程	126
59.	Refresher Course for Safety Officers 建造業安全主任重溫課程	13
60.	Safety Auditing 建築安全審核	30
61.	Off-shore General Shipping for Marine Construction Work 海事工程中之離岸一般船舶安全	32
62.	Safety Laws/F & IU Ordinance and New Development 工業安全規例及最新發展	23
63.	Safety Plan Preparation and Implementation 安全計劃之擬訂及實踐	38
64.	Safety Training Techniques 安全訓練技巧	34
65.	ISO 9000 and Safety Management ISO 9000品質制度及安全	22

	管理	
66.	Safety Course for Graduate Engineers (Civil, Structural & Building) 見習工程師安全課程 (土木、結構、屋宇)	225
67.	Safety Training for Construction Works (also known as Construction Workers "Green Card" Course) 建造工友安全訓練課程 (建造工友平安咭課程)	997
68.	Advanced Safety Training Course for Construction Workers (also known as Construction Worker's Silver Card Course) 建造工友高級安全訓練課程 (建造工友超級平安咭課程)	-
69.	Safety in Site Formation & Quarrying 工地平整及開採石礦安全課程	42
70.	Safety Management Course for Contractor's Project Managers 承辦項目經理安全管理課程 機械操作員證書課程	67
71.	Mechanical Maintenance, Repair and Installation of Builder's Lift 建築工地升降機機械保養、維持及安裝技工證書課程	115
72.	Temporary Installation Endless Winder of Suspended Working Platform (Gondola) Worker 無盡捲盤式臨時裝置懸空工作 (吊船) 工作人員證書課程	1091
73.	One day Refresher's Certification Course for Operators of Builder's Lift 建築工地升降機操作員一天重溫證書課程	74
74.	Two days Certification Course for Operators of Builder's Lift 建築工地升降機操作員二天證書課程	274
75.	One day Refresher's Certification Course for Operators of Tower Working Platform 塔式工作平台操作員一天重溫證書課程	-
76.	Two days Certification Course for Operators of Tower Working Platform 塔式工作平台操作員二天證書課程	-
77.	Various Tailor-made Courses for individual construction organisations 各類特約課程	2318
	Sub-total :	8023

建造業訓練局  
一九九六年畢業生所修讀之課程

部份時間制

- 1 EUCJ 輕木工藝班
- 2 EUPP 水喉潔具製造班
- 3 WDI 窗戶安裝班
- 4 DNL 渠務改設班
- 5 E/SV 建築學測量基本及高班
- 6 E/PP 水喉技藝班
- 7 ASR 石粉清拆及處理訓練課程
- 8 CMB 屋宇建造管理文憑訓練課程
- 9 CMT 土木工程管理文憑課程
- 10 CBC 屋宇建造監工證書課程
- 11 CSC 監工土木工程證書課程
- 12 SFR 竹棚工法例憲溫及工作守則證書課程
- PMS 分包處置訓練課程之工程管理課程(日間會讀班)
- 13 MS1 施工策劃
- 14 MS2 成本控制及財政預算
- 15 MS3 人力資源管理
- 16 MS4 ISO 9000品質制度簡介
- 17 MS5 施工進度與時間成本的分析
- 18 MS8 法律及保險
- 19 MCC 建造業物料質量控制員課程
- 20 ISA ISO 9000品質制度內部審核課程
- 21 ISO 建造業監工ISO 9000品質制度課程
- 22 BLO 建造行業法律須知
- 23 RCM 道際建造管理
- 24 CDM 建造工程紛爭的處理
- 25 FMC 建造工程的財政管理
- 26 MIC 建造業保險的管理
- 27 USC 建造工匠管理深造班
- 28 COS 溝通技巧與地盘管理課程
- 29 SAT 建造工地總務主任訓練課程
- 30 PBP 屋宇工程策劃及籌備
- 31 CMP 建築工程的合約管理
- 32 ABD 基本電腦輔助繪圖訓練課程
- 33 ACA AutoCAD高級應用及繪圖
- 34 AAD AutoCAD三維空間應用及繪圖
- 35 IMS Intergraph Microstation基本應用及繪圖
- 36 SSM 斜坡穩定及保養
- 37 FPP 建築物消防須知
- 38 PCB 預應力混凝土橋樑之建造
- 39 CRL 堆填區上建造工程之困難及解決方法
- 40 ECB 香港建造的鋼纜吊橋

- 41 DWB 河溪橋及溪地工程
- 42 RCR 鑿定鋼筋混凝土損壞程度及補救方法
- 43 HSC 重形鋼架建築物的建造及品質控制
- 44 HTS 公路及隧道測量技術
- 45 TLM 隧道建造技術
- 46 CNC 建造工程噪音法例、調控及管制
- 47 DBS 拆卸樓宇暨工程課程
- 48 DBP 拆卸樓宇機械操作員課程
- 49 COC 建築合約索償課程
- 50 TUL 平水繩纜理論基礎課程
- 51 TUP 水喉理論基礎課程
- 52 BSQ 適合工料測人員修讀之屋宇設備基礎課程
- 53 QSB 適合屋宇設備工程人員修讀之工料測量課程
- 54 SAM 策略性資產管理專業證書課程
- 55 CSO 建造業安全主任課程
- 56 CSS 建造業安全督導員訓練課程
- 57 SST 建造業訓練局管工班之建造業安全督導員訓練課程
- 58 FAC 急救證書課程
- 59 RSO 建造業安全主任重溫課程
- USO 建造業在職安全主任短期進修課程系列(共六期)
- 60 SAU 建築安全審核
- 61 OMC 海軍工程中之離岸一般船舶安全
- 62 SLD 工業安全規例及最新發展
- 63 SPI 安全計劃之編訂及實踐
- 64 STT 安全訓練技巧
- 65 ISM ISO 9000品質制度及安全管理
- 66 GES 見習工程師安全課程(土木、結構、屋宇)
- 67 SCW 建造工友安全訓練課程(建造工友平安咭課程)
- 68 ASW 建造工友高級安全訓練課程(建造工友超級平安咭課程)
- 69 SFQ 工地平整及開採石礦安全課程
- 70 SPM 承建商項目經理安全管理課程
- 機械操作員證書課程
- 71 MBL 建築工地升降機機械保養、維修及安裝技工證書課程
- 72 SWP 無盡捲整式臨時裝置懸空工作平台(吊船)工作人員證書課程
- 73 BL1 建築工地升降機操作員一天重溫證書課程
- 74 BL2 建築工地升降機操作員二天證書課程
- 75 TW1 塔式工作平台操作員一天重溫證書課程
- 76 TW2 塔式工作平台操作員二天證書課程
- 77 各類特約課程

**Annex C**  
**附件C**

**Number of Training Places Actually Provided by  
the Vocational Training Council in 1996/97  
for the Construction Industry**  
職業訓練局在一九九六至九七年度  
為建造業提供訓練的實際名額

**(A) Full-time Diploma and Higher Diploma Course for the Construction Industry**  
建造業全日制文憑和高級文憑

Course Title 課程	Enrolment 收生人數
Diploma in Building Studies 建築業文憑	80
Diploma in Civil Engineering 土木工程文憑	121
Higher Diploma in Civil Engineering 土木工程高級文憑	83
Higher Diploma in Structural Engineering 結構工程高級文憑	42
Higher Diploma in Building Services Engineering 屋宇設備工程高級文憑	72

**(B) Training Courses for the Electrical and Mechanical (E&M) Trade**  
電機業的訓練課程

Course Title 課程	Enrolment 收生人數
Electrical Engineering Craft Foundation Course 電機工程基本工藝課程	472
Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Craft Foundation Course 空氣調節及冷凝基本工藝課程	246
Lift Engineering Craft Foundation Course 電梯工程課程	91
Gas Fitting Craft Foundation Course 用戶氣體燃料課程	44
Diploma in Electrical Engineering 電機工程文憑課程	168
Diploma in Mechanical Engineering 機械工程文憑課程	463
Higher Diploma in Electrical Engineering 電機工程高級課程	41
Higher Diploma in Mechanical Engineering 機械工程高級文憑課程	69

**Note 註：**

It is estimated that of those craft and technician level trainees (of the E&M trade) who are in employment after completed training, about 75% and 60% respectively work for the construction industry.

估計參加技工和技術員(電機業)程度課程後找到工作的學員中，分別約有75%和60%從事建造業。

Measures to ensure safe conditions of buildings

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Choy Kan-pui and an oral reply by the acting Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Patrick Lau, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

In regard to the "problem canopies", will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the current total number of "problem canopies" listed as requiring inspection by Buildings Department (the Department);
- (b) of the total number of "problem canopies" which have been inspected by the Department to date and the results of such inspections;
- (c) of the average time required for the inspection of a "problem canopy" and the estimated time required to complete the inspection of all the "problem canopies"; and
- (d) of the measures put in place by the Government to ensure that those "problem canopies" which have not been inspected by the Department will not endanger public safety?

Reply:

- (a) After the falling of a canopy from a building in Aberdeen in end 1994, Buildings Department has compiled a list of 1,200 canopies of similar design and age for investigation. These canopies are all in slab form, have a span of more than 1.5m and are mostly found on buildings constructed in 1980 or before. However, I must emphasize that, before the investigation findings are available, it should not be assumed categorically that all of them are "problem canopies".
- (b) Of the 1,200 canopies on the list for investigation, 130 canopies have been investigated. Among these cases, we have served 20 investigation/repair orders and taken emergency shoring action in 3 cases.
- (c) For canopies that are free from obstruction, the average investigation time per canopy is about 2 weeks. Our scheduled completion of the investigation of the 1,200 canopies is by March 1998.

- (d) The investigation of the 1,200 canopies is just part of the overall programme of the Buildings Department to tackle the issue of "problem canopies". Other measures include acting on complaints by the public and referral from other Government departments, as well as proactive identification of dangerous canopies for removal. From 1994 to 1996, 1,657 dangerous unauthorised canopies and 1,022 unauthorised structures on approved canopies have been removed.

However, I must stress that building owners are also responsible for ensuring the safe conditions of their buildings. Hence, the Buildings Department announced the implementation of the voluntary building inspection scheme this month. Moreover, the department will consult the public on the proposed mandatory building inspection scheme in July this year. Through periodic inspection and early maintenance, safe conditions of buildings can be ensured.

End

Government will continue to closely monitor the property market

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Leung Yiu-chung and an oral reply by the Secretary for Housing, Mr Dominic Wong, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Regarding the current speculative activities in the residential property market, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) how the current speculative activities in the residential property market compare with those before the implementation of measures by the Government in 1994 to dampen property prices; and
- (b) apart from the measures adopted to curb speculative activities in the residential property market since the beginning of this year, whether, and if so under what circumstances, the Government will adopt further special measures to curb such activities?

Answer:

Mr President,

Before June 1994, speculation was rife in the pre-sale market of residential flats because of the long period allowed for pre-sale, and because of the freedom to resell such flats before actual assignment of the property. The high percentage of flats allowed to property developers for private sale also fuelled speculation since many of these buyers were not genuine end-users. Speculators bought and resold shell companies, and ballots were traded before flat selection. There were also incidents of long queues outside sales offices, causing law and order problems. In addition, purchasers were often given insufficient sales information, and this led to panic buying on occasions.

Since the announcement of the two series of new measures to boost flat supply and to dampen speculation this year, the property market situation at present is more stable. The pre-sale period for uncompleted flats is much shorter, and resale before assignment is not allowed. The quantity for private sale of uncompleted flats is reduced, and is restricted to genuine end-users. Speculation through shell companies has been curbed. Ballot-trading has disappeared. Sales are conducted in an orderly manner. Confirmors have been hit hard. Home buyers have benefited from more transparent information on the sale of flats. Co-operation from estate agent associations and the Law Society are forthcoming.

As regards Part (b) of the question, the Government's policy is to allow the residential property market to operate freely as far as possible, and intervene only if it becomes necessary. It is difficult to lay down specific criteria as to when the Government may introduce further measures as this presupposes a hypothetical situation. We will continue to monitor the property market closely.

End

Penalties adequate to deter illegal marine fish culture operations

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Emily Lau Wai-hing and an oral reply by the acting Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Patrick Lau, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

In spite of the designation of Yan Chau Tong as a marine park, fishermen have recently illegally set up rafts at nearby waters for fish farming, thus polluting the water quality and upsetting the marine ecology in the area. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) whether the departments concerned will take actions to prohibit the operation of these illegal rafts; if not, why not?
- (b) whether the Government will amend the Marine Parks Ordinance and other relevant legislation so as to enable the departments concerned to have the authority to order offenders to cease operation immediately or operate outside the boundary of the marine park on the one hand, and increase the penalties substantially to strengthen the deterrent effect on the other; and
- (c) of the impact on the water quality of the above marine park as a result of the pollution generated by the rapidly increasing industrial and economic activities in the area inside the China boundary adjacent to Yan Chau Tong?

Reply:

Mr President,

- (a) The operators of the rafts concerned are licensed by the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries to engage in fish culture but have been operating outside their designated fish culture zone at a location some 600 metres away from Yan Chau Tong Marine Park.

The Director of Agriculture and Fisheries has initiated prosecution of the operators concerned under the Marine Fish Culture Ordinance, under which it is an offence for any person to engage in fish culture within the waters of Hong Kong outside a fish culture zone. The operators have since moved the rafts back to their designated fish culture zone.

- (b) Marine fish culture is prohibited inside marine parks and marine reserves under the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation, made under the Marine Parks Ordinance. The maximum penalty for contravention of the prohibition is a fine of up to \$25,000 and imprisonment for one year. To date, this provision has not been contravened. We consider the penalty to be an adequate deterrent.

For marine fish culture outside the boundary of the marine parks and marine reserves, the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries has the power to cancel a marine fish culture licence if the licensee contravenes the licence conditions and to seize and detain any raft being used in connection with the commission of any offence under the Marine Fish Culture Ordinance. The maximum penalty for contravention of the prohibition on engaging in fish culture within the waters of Hong Kong outside a fish culture zone is a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for six months. We consider that illegal operation of fish rafts has not been a serious problem to date and that the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries has adequate power to deal with contravention of licence conditions.

- (c) There has not been any deterioration in water quality in the Yan Chau Tong Marine Park since its establishment. Since 1991, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has been carrying out water sampling in the Mirs Bay Water Control Zone, which includes the Yan Chau Tong Marine Park, and there is so far no indication that water quality in the area has deteriorated. Additional sampling points both inside and near the Yan Chau Tong Marine Park have been set up by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department since 1994 and the results confirmed EPD's finding. We will continue to monitor the water quality in the area.

End

No report on refused entry to BDTC passport holders

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Following are a question by the Hon Howard Young and an oral reply by the acting Secretary for Security, Mrs Carrie Yau, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

In view of the fact that all British Dependent Territories Citizen (BDTC) passports will expire at a date on or before 30th June this year and that many countries do not accept travel documents with a validity period of less than six months, will the government inform this Council:

- (a) whether the government has any information regarding BDTC passports holders being rejected at Kai Tak airport or any other overseas airports because their travel documents do not have a validity period in excess of six months, and
- (b) in regard to people who have not applied for BN(O) or British National (Overseas) passports but who have the need to travel overseas within the next two months, what recourse do they have to obtain a valid travel document?

Reply:

Mr President,

I shall reply to the two parts of this question in turn.

- (a) Most HKBDTC passport holders present themselves for departure and arrival clearance at immigration control points in Hong Kong with their Hong Kong Permanent Identity Cards. The Immigration Department therefore has no way of knowing the validity of their passports which they need not produce. We would not know whether BDTC passport holders at overseas airports are refused entry because their passports have less than six months validity unless these are reported to us. We have not received any of such reports so far.

- (b) The admission policies of foreign countries are different. Generally speaking, countries will wish to satisfy themselves that the individual is returnable to Hong Kong; and returnability of a BDTC passport holder is evident from his Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card. Nonetheless, it may be more difficult for holders of BDTC passports to obtain visas now for entry to those countries or territories which require a visa from them. Any BDTC who has not yet applied for a BN(O) passport, unless born in the first six months of this year, will have missed the legal deadline for lodging such an application. The BN(O) passport issuing function was transferred from the Hong Kong Immigration Department to the British Trade Commission (BTC) on 1 April this year. We understand that the British Trade Commission will only accept late applications if there are genuine special circumstances which justify it. Any late applications will be considered carefully.

End

#### Foreign lawyers registration

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Following is a question by the Hon Ho Chun-yan and an oral reply by the Attorney General, Mr Jeremy Mathews, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

It is learnt that the China Legal Service (HK) Limited (the Company), which was established with the approval of the Chinese Ministry of Justice, provides legal services in the territory without applying to the Law Society of Hong Kong (the Society) for registration as a foreign law firm in accordance with the requirements of the law of the territory. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) whether the owner of the Company and its lawyers have contravened the Legal Practitioners Ordinance and its subsidiary legislation; and
- (b) whether, following the receipt of the complaint from the Society against the Company, the Government has requested the Company to go through the necessary procedures for registration as a foreign law firm as soon as possible; if so, what the outcome is; if not, why not; and whether the Government has considered instituting prosecutions, if not, why not?

Reply:

Mr President,

Before I answer these two questions, it may be helpful if I set out the respective functions of the Law Society and my department in respect of the activities of foreign lawyers and foreign law firms.

Under the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, it is the Law Society that is given the power to register persons as foreign lawyers, and firms as foreign law firms, and it is the Council of the Law Society that is empowered, subject to the approval of the Chief Justice, to make rules in respect of such registration, and in respect of the practice of foreign lawyers and foreign firms. In other words, the Law Society is the statutory and professional regulatory authority in this respect.

The statutory scheme is backed up by certain criminal sanctions in relation to those who offer their services to the public as a practitioner of foreign law without being a solicitor, a barrister or a registered foreign lawyer. The responsibility of my department is to decide whether any prosecution should be instituted in respect of these criminal sanctions and, if so, to be responsible for the prosecution.

In answer to paragraph (a) of the question, I would point out that the police are investigating whether the company referred to, or any person connected with it, has committed any offence under the Legal Practitioners Ordinance. This being so, it is not appropriate for me to comment further at this stage.

With regard to paragraph (b) of the question, it is not possible for a limited company to register as a foreign law firm. However, after my department was notified by the Law Society that the company might be operating in breach of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, members of my department and the Law Society made every effort to persuade the company to comply with the provisions of the Ordinance.

The company was given ample time to do so. When, after further urging from members of the Law Society and my department, it did not do so, I referred the matter to the police for investigation. When the police have completed their investigation I will consider whether any prosecution should be instituted.

End

Statistics on inspections to buildings by FSD

\* \* \* \* \*

Following are a question by the Hon John Tse Wing-ling and a written reply by the acting Secretary for Security, Mrs Carrie Yau, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Will the Government inform this Council of the following in each of the past five years:

- (a) the respective numbers of commercial and residential buildings inspected by the Fire Services Department in each district; and
- (b) the respective numbers of commercial and residential buildings found to be in breach of the relevant regulations in each district; together with a breakdown by district of the number of warning letters issued to the owners concerned requiring them to adopt improvement measures, and the number of prosecutions instituted against the offending owners?

Reply:

- (a) The numbers of inspections to commercial and residential buildings carried out by the Fire Services Department (FSD) in each of its command areas in the past five years are as follows:

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Hong Kong (HK)	4895	4196	8288	5745	4542
Kowloon (Kln)	4836	7170	7763	8249	6317
New Territories (NT)	826	644	673	654	1053
Total	10557	12010	16724	14648	11912

Note - The above figures include inspections carried out in the course of conducting building surveys and in response to complaints.

- (b) Where any breach of the Fire Services Ordinance is found, a Fire Hazard Abatement Notice (FHAN) will be issued to the responsible person requiring him/her to abate the fire hazard within a prescribed period of time. Prosecution will be made if appropriate action is not taken by that person.

The numbers of FHANs served in respect of commercial and residential buildings in the past five years by the FSD in each of its command areas are as follows:

		1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
FHANs issued in relation to general fire hazards (e.g. blocking of means of escape)	HK	781	798	118	645	773
	Kln	751	927	472	649	714
	NT	171	82	65	32	96
FHANs issued in relation to fire service installations	HK, Kln & NT	17091	1376	1994	2565	1962
Total		3412	3183	3749	3891	3545

The numbers of prosecutions made in the past five years are as follows:

		1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Prosecution cases in commercial and residential buildings	HK	82	37	24	17	26
	Kln	68	37	17	21	28
	NT	6	11	1	8	4
Total		156	85	42	45	58

No statistics on unemployment details of CSSA recipients

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Chan Wing-chan and a written reply by the Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Will the Government inform this Council of:

- (a) the total number of persons and who were unemployed due to dismissal or redundancy who applied for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) in the past three years; and
- (b) whether it can provide a breakdown of the numbers of the above unemployed persons according to "sex and previous employment by trade classification", "age and previous employment by trade classification", "sex and previous occupation" and "age and previous occupation"; if not, what the reasons are, and whether the Government will consider collecting such information and publishing it on a regular basis?

Reply:

Mr President,

- (a) The Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme seeks to provide assistance to financially vulnerable members of our community to meet their basic needs, regardless of sex, age, family status and background. We do not therefore maintain separate statistics on the number of CSSA applicants who were unemployed due to dismissal or redundancy.
- (b) For the reason given in part (a), we do not have ready information on the sex, age and previous employment of CSSA recipients in the "unemployed" category. We will consider collecting such data and publishing it when the new management information system under preparation is in place.

End

Vacant development land

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Following is a question by the Hon Chan Yuen-han and a written reply by the acting Secretary for Planning, Environment & Lands, Mr Patrick Lau, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

It is learnt that the Government currently holds a total of over 4300 hectares of land which can be developed for residential use. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the reasons for the above land not being used for building residential flats ; and
- (b) whether it has formulated any plan to develop the above land ; if so, what the details are?

Answer:

Mr President,

It is not true that the Government holds 4,300 hectares of land which can be developed for residential use. We believe the statistic refers to information in Table 1 of a report produced by the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat, "Land Supply in Hong Kong" dated 3 April 1997. That table classifies the use of land in Hong Kong as at 31 March 1996 showing, among other uses, 4,300 hectares of "vacant development land".

As we have explained at the Legislative Council Panel on Housing Subcommittee on Long Term Housing Strategy Review on 9 and 24 April 1997, the 4,300 hectares of "vacant development land" refers to land intended for development purposes which is vacant, under temporary uses or with construction in progress. Such land is intended for a number of purposes including commercial, industrial, community facilities, and housing, etc. Examples include the new airport at Chek Lap Kok, the new land formed in North Lantau for Tung Chung New Town and other development, West Kowloon Reclamation, etc. These are classified as "vacant development land" until the designated development is completed

As part of the Government's overall plan to develop the territory, the development of "vacant development land" follows an engineering programme which governs the implementation of infrastructure engineering works in accordance with the layout plans. The major steps in the programme include funding approval for and conducting of site investigation, detailed design and construction works, and compliance with statutory procedures. The infrastructure engineering works include the construction of roads, bridges, drains and sewers, and the laying of public utility facilities.

End

#### Anti-illegal immigration operations on child IIs

\* \* \* \* \*

Following are a question by the Hon Eric Li and a written reply by the acting Secretary for Security, Mrs Carrie Yau, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

It is reported that the number of child illegal immigrants (child IIs) from the Mainland intercepted by the Police has increased significantly in recent months. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) whether Police officers will take into account the fact that these child IIs are under the influence of their parents or illegal immigrant smugglers in attempting to enter the territory illegally, and thus accord these child IIs appropriate treatment while carrying out their interception duties;
- (b) whether handcuffs have been used in arresting these child IIs; if so, what the reasons are;

- (c) whether there are sufficient facilities in the children reception centres or residential institutions to accommodate the large number of such child IIs;
- (d) whether these child IIs are detained together with other juvenile offenders; if so, what the reasons are; and
- (e) whether, in repatriating these child IIs, counselling is given to them to enable them to understand that entering the territory illegally is an offence under the law?

Reply:

- (a) Police officers and indeed, all law enforcement officers, are alert to the vulnerability of young illegal immigrants and the predicament they face during anti-illegal immigration operations. We have always been sensitive and careful in handling illegal immigrant children having regard to humane considerations.
- (b) There are detailed rules in police manuals governing the use of handcuffs which are also applicable to illegal immigrants. This is to ensure that handcuffs are to be used sparingly and only for very good reasons, such as to prevent injury to life or escape of detainees. Handcuffs have rarely been used on illegal immigrant children.
- (c) Our policy is to repatriate all illegal immigrants at the earliest opportunity. If it is necessary to detain an illegal immigrant child, he or she will be accommodated at one of the residential institutions, namely the Pui Chi Boys' Home, Ma Tau Wei Girls' Home and Chuk Yuen Child Reception Centre, operated by the Social Welfare Department. There are sufficient capacity and facilities at these homes to accommodate illegal immigrant children.
- (d) Illegal immigrant children are accommodated at selected Social Welfare Department institutions which do not accommodate juvenile offenders.
- (e) Over the years, the Administration has mounted extensive publicity to make clear that it is an offence for any person to enter Hong Kong illegally and all illegal immigrants will be repatriated forthwith. Illegal immigrant children and, their parents, if available, are informed by officers responsible for the operations of the reasons for their arrests. They are also told that the illegal immigrant children will be subject to repatriation at the earliest opportunity.

End

### Higher plot ratios for hotels

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Howard Young and a written reply by the acting Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Patrick Lau, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Will the Government inform this Council whether, since the relaxation of plot ratios for hotels in September 1995, any applications have been received from existing hotel operators or developers of new hotels to utilize the higher plot ratios; if so, of the number of applications which have been approved to date?

Mr President,

Since the relaxation of plot ratios and site coverage for bona fide hotels up to non-domestic standards in September 1995, 29 applications have been received from existing hotel operators or developers of new hotels to utilize the higher plot ratios. To date, 13 of these applications have been approved.

End

### Measures to prevent children from running away

\* \* \* \* \*

Following are a question by the Hon Zachary Wong Wai-yin and a written reply by the acting Secretary for Security, Mrs Carrie Yau, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Will the Government inform this Council of:

- (a) the number of cases involving children running away from home in each of the past three years, as well as the reasons for their running away from home;
- (b) the measures taken by the authorities concerned to prevent the occurrence of such cases; and

- (c) the number of runaway children found in the past three years, and the circumstances in which they were found?

Reply:

Mr President,

- (a) & (c) The Police do not keep separate statistics on the number of cases involving children running away from home. They keep statistics on missing persons only. The number of persons under 16 reported missing in the past three years were 3,099 in 1994, 3,041 in 1995 and 3,235 in 1996.

In the past three years, the number of persons under 16 missing but found were 3,005 in 1994, 2,954 in 1995 and 3,032 in 1996. Most returned home voluntarily. Others were found through Police enquiries or by the missing person's family. Details are at Annex A.

Of those found, the number who were established to be running away from home were 984 in 1994, 709 in 1995 and 540 in 1996. The reasons cited by them were family dispute, lack of parental supervision, truancy, and desire for independence. Details are at Annex B.

- (b) The Social Welfare Department and the Education Department have adopted the following measures to prevent the occurrence of such cases -

Family support to help youth development

Family casework and counselling services and family life education are provided to enhance communication skills and interpersonal relationship in the family. Home-school cooperation is promoted through setting up Parent-Teacher Associations and providing parental education to enhance parent-child relationship.

For families having children with runaway history, welfare plans are worked out to improve the family relationship through a host of welfare services such as counselling, psychological services, child care services and schooling and financial assistance.

### Children and Youth Services

Services in Children and Youth Centres are strengthened by focusing on the needs of youths at risk, including runaway youths e.g. providing counselling service and programmes on interpersonal skills.

### Assistance and Support for Students with Learning Difficulties

The "Whole School Approach to Guidance" is adopted to create a positive, caring and inviting environment in schools, thereby minimizing truancy cases. Under this Approach, programmes are organized to enhance parent-child communication, promote teacher-student relationship and increase students' sense of belonging to schools.

A Student Discipline Section was established in 1996 to provide professional support to secondary schools on student discipline matters including truancy.

Alternative schooling opportunities are provided for students with learning difficulties e.g. Skills Opportunity Schools and Practical Schools.

A permanent support team was established in 1996 to provide assistance to schools participating in the Curriculum Tailoring Scheme which is targetted at academically low achievers.

### Research

To better understand the profile of runaway children and youths, the Working Group on Services for Youth at Risk chaired by the Director of Social Welfare commissioned a study on youth gangs and runaway youths. The Research was conducted by the Chinese University of Hong Kong and was completed in March 1997.

The Social Welfare Department is considering the feasibility of one of the Research recommendations, i.e. launching a pilot project on a mobile centre to provide services for young night drifters.

**Annex A**

**Circumstances in which Missing Persons under 16 were Found (1994-1996)**

<b><u>Circumstances</u></b>	<b><u>1994</u></b>	<b><u>1995</u></b>	<b><u>1996</u></b>
(1) Voluntary return	1 794 (59.7%)*	1 570 (53.1%)	1 523 (50.2%)
(2) Found by missing person's family	411 (13.7%)	425 (14.4%)	445 (14.7%)
(3) Found through assistance of other government departments or agencies	11 (0.4%)	22 (0.7%)	34 (1.1%)
(4) Found during raids of vice establishments	28 (0.9%)	8 (0.2%)	6 (0.2%)
(5) Arrested for crimes	50 (1.7%)	51 (1.7%)	47 (1.6%)
(6) Found through Police enquiries other than (4) & (5)	565 (18.8%)	709 (24%)	711 (23.4%)
(7) Others	146 (4.9%)	169 (5.7%)	266 (8.8%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 005</b>	<b>2 954</b>	<b>3 032</b>

\* The percentage indicates the percentage of the persons found under the particular circumstances over the total number of missing persons found that year.

**Annex B**

<b><u>Reasons</u></b>	<b><u>1994</u></b>	<b><u>1995</u></b>	<b><u>1996</u></b>
Family dispute	335 (34%)	455 (64%)	460 (85%)
Lack of parental supervision	550 (56%)	181 (26%)	9 (2%)
Truancy	76 (8%)	53 (7%)	56 (10%)
Desire for Independence	23 (2%)	20 (3%)	15 (3%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>540</b>

End

Security guard permit processing time shortened

\* \* \* \* \*

Following are a question by the Hon Lee Cheuk-yan and a written reply by the acting Secretary for Security, Mrs Carrie Yau, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

The Security and Guarding Services Ordinance came into effect in June 1995. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the following information regarding the application for the security guard permit (the permit):
  - (i) the number of applicants;
  - (ii) the number of applicants whose applications have been approved and the number of applicants whose applications have been rejected;
  - (iii) the number of unsuccessful applicants who have submitted representations to the Police and whose representations have been accepted;
  - (iv) the number of unsuccessful applicants who have submitted representations to the Police and whose representations have been rejected;
  - (v) the number of applicants who have appealed to the Administrative Appeals Board, and the number of these applicants who have ultimately been granted the permit;
- (b) the average time taken in processing an application for the permit;
- (c) of the reasons for the Police refusing to issue the permit as well as the reasons for the Police rejecting the applicants' representations; and
- (d) whether the Security and Guarding Services Industry Authority will conduct a review on the implementation arrangements of the Security and Guarding Services Ordinance; if so, when the review will be conducted?

Reply:

Mr President,

(a) The Security and Guarding Services Ordinance came into effect on 1 June 1995. The application period for security personnel permits commenced on 2 November 1995. As at the end of March 1997 -

(i) the total number of applicants is more than 61,000;

(ii) the number of applicants whose applications have been approved is more than 58,500. The number rejected is 33, while the other 3,000 cases are mostly awaiting further information or representation;

(iii)&(iv) of the 565 applicants who have submitted representations to the Police, 351 have been successful; 33 rejected; and the remaining 181 cases are pending; and

(v) 24 applicants have appealed to Administrative Appeal Board. One appeal was allowed and a permit was granted to the applicant; 4 were dismissed; and 19 were withdrawn.

(b) In the initial period of implementation, owing to an influx of more than 9,000 applications a month, coupled with the applications for watchman's permits under the Watchmen Ordinance which was still in force until 31 May 1996, the average time for processing a permit application is two to three months. However, having cleared the backlog of applications by the end of 1996, the situation has significantly improved. In the first quarter of 1997, the average time taken in processing a permit application has been shortened to 12-14 working days.

(c) All rejected cases are on the grounds of past criminal record. These include conviction for dangerous drugs offences, burglary, violent and sexual offences. However, not all applicants with past criminal record are rejected. Having considered the nature of the offence and the age of the applicant at the time of conviction, the Police Licensing Office have exercised necessary discretion in granting security personnel permits to deserving applicants.

- (d) Review of the implementation of the Ordinance is an on-going process. Both the SGSIA and the Police closely monitor the implementation of the Ordinance through regular meetings and liaison with trade associations. Where problems are identified, necessary adjustments and administrative arrangements are made to ensure smooth implementation. For instance -

In October 1995, in view of concerns in the trade, the maximum working hours for security personnel have been raised from 312 to 372 hours per month.

Since May 1996, security personnel were permitted to take up part-time security job subject to the statutory maximum of 372 hours per month.

The permit processing time has been shortened from two to three months in 1996 to 14 days in 1997. The Police are now working towards the target of shortening this processing time to 9 working days.

Training guidelines have been issued to facilitate the implementation of the licensing criteria requiring security companies to provide training for their employees.

End

#### Role of Councils of UGC-funded institutions

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Emily Lau and a written reply by the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

It is learnt that the University Grants Committee (UGC) has recently criticized the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) for being too enthusiastic in developing world-class technology researches at the expense of curriculum design, and relying too heavily on teaching assistants to conduct teaching activities, thus affecting the quality of teaching. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) whether it knows of how the HKUST has responded to the above criticism and how it will improve the situation;
- (b) of the role played by the HKUST Council in supervising the curriculum design and quality of teaching in the HKUST; and
- (c) whether the Government and the authorities concerned will review the role of the Councils of the UGC-funded institutions, with a view to strengthening their supervisory functions?

Reply:

The alleged criticisms mentioned by the Hon Member referred, I believe, to a report on the Teaching and Learning Quality Process Review (TLQPR) of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), which was undertaken by the University Grants Committee (UGC) last year. The aims of the TLQPRs, which have now been undertaken of all UGC-funded institutions (except the Hong Kong Institute of Education which became a UGC-funded institution in December 1996), are:

- (a) to focus attention on teaching and learning as the primary mission of Hong Kong's tertiary institutions;
- (b) to assist institutions in their efforts to improve the quality of teaching and learning; and
- (c) to enable the UGC and the institutions to discharge their obligation to maintain accountability for the quality of teaching and learning.

As part of the review process, the findings of the reviews are compiled into reports which the institutions are expected to publish together, if they so wish, with a public response statement commenting on the review and indicating how they intend to follow up. To date, TLQPRs of seven UGC-funded institutions have been undertaken and the reports of five institutions, including HKUST's, have been published. The Government strongly supports and endorses the goals of the TLQPRs and the review process.

Turning to the specific questions:

- (a) The TLQPR Report on HKUST and HKUST's public response statement were published on 26 March 1997. The University indicated in its response statement that it had taken, and would continue to take, certain measures to address the concerns expressed in the TLQPR report. A copy of the University's public response statement is at the Annex.

As with other UGC-funded institutions, the UGC has requested the HKUST to submit a progress report on the implementation of measures to address the areas for improvement identified in the TLQPR report in two years' time.

(b) Under section 15 of the HKUST Ordinance (Cap.1141), the Senate, which includes the Deans and Heads of all academic departments, is the supreme academic body of the University. Its duties include, among other things, -

- (i) planning, developing and reviewing academic programmes; and
- (ii) directing and regulating the teaching and research conducted in the University.

The supervision of curriculum design and of the quality of teaching thus fall within the responsibilities of the Senate. Under the Statutes of the HKUST, which are made under the HKUST Ordinance, the Senate is required to make recommendations to the Council on the academic aspects of any matters affecting the University and to report to the Council on academic matters referred to the Senate by the Council. The Standing Committee of the Council also receives regular reports from the President on the affairs of the University, these being mostly concerned with academic matters.

(c) Every UGC-funded institution has its own governance structure. It includes a Council - the supreme governing and executive body, and a Senate - a body to regulate academic matters. The Councils of all UGC-funded institutions are empowered by law to exercise the powers and perform the duties of the institutions. Depending on the specific provision under respective Ordinances, the Council scrutinises the annual budget, manages and controls the affairs, purposes and functions of the institutions and reviews the instruction and teaching of the University. In this instance, the Councils are empowered to examine the TLQPR reports of the institutions and advise on measures to address areas for improvements identified in the reports. We consider that the existing Ordinances of the institutions have provided sufficient powers for their respective Councils to exercise their monitoring and supervisory functions. We do not see a need to review the statutory functions of the Councils of the institutions in this regard.

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### The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Response to the Teaching and Learning Quality Process Review

In 1996, the University celebrated the fifth anniversary of the opening of its doors to students. We are proud of the progress we have already made towards achieving the mission given to us by the people of Hong Kong—the establishment of a world-class science and technology university to advance learning and knowledge through teaching and research, and to assist in the economic and social development of Hong Kong. Our reputation thus far in basic and applied research is remarkable for so young an institution.

But as we enter the next phase of our developments we welcome the guidance and advice of the University Grants Committee (UGC) Teaching and Learning Process Review (TLQPR) Panel on the processes needed to ensure the continued quality of teaching and learning. We are particularly grateful that the TLQPR Panel has recognized the caliber and enthusiasm of our academic staff as a positive factor in HKUST's teaching environment.

The Panel has identified ways we can improve the quality assurance processes needed to continuously improve teaching and learning at our University. We agree that this is a priority, and we have been working towards this goal for some time.

Among recent developments are:

- The recently formed Committee for Academic Program Enhancement has already produced a modification of the University's general education program, and is starting a program of staff-student consultations on academic matters.
- The School of Humanities and Social Science is redeveloping its courses to better match the preparation and needs of our incoming students.
- An orientation and training program has been developed for teaching assistants.
- New requirements for individual student advising by faculty have been introduced.
- A comprehensive review system for all our programs is being set up, with the assessment of teaching and learning quality an integral part.

Other initiatives will follow. A number of teaching quality processes have been in place for some time and are working well:

- We were the first institution in Hong Kong with a mandatory, common student evaluation of every course, every semester. Results are now shared with students, and play a critical part in the professional review of academic staff.
- We were also one of the first institutions in Hong Kong to recognize excellence in teaching with an annual award. Since then a new award has been established that recognizes collective efforts to improve teaching and learning.

We acknowledge the need to strengthen formal processes for quality assurance and we recognize that greater formality is needed as we mature if we are to build on the solid foundations of our founding years. In particular, we must provide better mechanisms for good ideas and good practice to be shared among our departments and teaching staff.

At every stage of the TLQPR process, the UGC has made it clear that the review is not intended to assess the quality of teaching. Instead, the panel members reviews policies and procedures and talk with staff and students about the ways that teaching and curriculum issues are addressed. It is our firm belief that the actual quality of teaching at HKUST ranks with the best in Hong Kong, and that our students' learning is second to none. Why?

- HKUST has pioneered the use of technology in the teaching and learning process. Multimedia studios, computer teaching modules, and an interactive lecture theater are just some of the developments.
- Our business faculty has been developing case study materials based on local and other Asian examples to supplement and replace the use of existing materials that are US-based. A number of them will be published in a book by a major textbook publisher and others are included in the portfolio of the Harvard Business School.
- Our regular academic programs are supplemented by outstanding support and value-added activities. The HKUST Language Centre is a model of language enhancement activity in Hong Kong, and is singled out in the TLQPR report for its examples it provides of good practice and processes. Our Library is at the forefront of modern information technology. The new Center for the Arts is enriching the campus with numerous cultural events and workshops for students and faculty.
- International exchange programs allow some of our best students to expand their horizons and distinguish themselves at some of the world's most prestigious universities.
- In competitions with other institutions, our students have consistently done well. Our student computer programming team is ranked among the best in the world, while our English debate team took first place in local competition this year.

These accomplishments take extra effort on the part of our staff. The length of our academic semester ranks at the top of the list in Hong Kong. The School of Engineering has extended its offerings into the Summer session, to give students a chance to spread out their study load. Our method of teaching, based on continuous assessment, places great demands on both teachers and students.

There is little question that our students work harder than students at any other institution in Hong Kong—they are not shy about bringing this to our attention—but this reflects the additional work of the faculty.

HKUST aspires to be among the leading research universities in the world. We have no intention of abandoning that goal, but we also intend to be among the best places for students to learn.

We see no contradiction between these aims. One of the characteristics shared by the great institutions of learning throughout the world is the exciting intellectual environment they provide for scholars and students. This environment is created by first-rate minds inquiring into the deepest questions about society, the universe, and our place in them.

Excellent teaching, first-rate scholarship, quality research—these are all essential to such an environment. And these are all ingredients that we are developing in abundance at HKUST.

End

Housing Authority manages 162 public housing estates

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon John Tse and a written reply by the Secretary for Housing, Mr Dominic Wong, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Does the Government know of:

- (a) the respective numbers of housing blocks and units in each of the public housing estates under the management of the Housing Authority; and
- (b) the respective annual total repair and maintenance costs of each public housing estate in the past five years?

Answer:

Mr President,

The Housing Authority manages 162 public rental housing estates comprising 1,239 blocks or 663,383 flats.

The annual repair and maintenance expenditure of these estates in the recent five years is as follows -

	\$ million
1992-93	Not available
1993-94	1,788
1994-95	2,333
1995-96	2,467
1996-97 (estimated)	1,953

Information on each estate is at Annex.

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**Repair and maintenance expenditure of public rental housing estates under the Housing Authority**

NAME OF ESTATE	1993-94 \$'000	1994-95 \$'000	1995-96 \$'000	1996-97 (Estimated) \$'000	Number of domestic units	Number of domestic blocks
Ap Lei Chau	9,359	12,342	15,765	30,284	4,453	8
Butterfly	18,959	27,701	24,590	20,832	5,405	6
Chai Wan	4,565	4,888	5,293	14,611	3,405	7
Chak On	12,487	25,989	3,953	5,793	1,905	4
Cheung Ching	30,083	18,672	16,206	8,819	4,904	8
Cheung Fat	2,444	2,777	4,655	6,338	2,618	4
Cheung Hang	3,513	4,300	8,548	6,047	4,799	6
Cheung Hong	18,147	17,110	29,850	19,030	8,594	13
Cheung Kwai	1,035	1,601	1,726	1,483	472	18
Cheung On	11,123	38,610	43,714	14,328	7,338	10
Cheung Sha Wan	6,965	8,294	11,715	6,624	2,689	13
Cheung Shan	13,663	6,149	6,875	15,064	1,620	3
Cheung Wah	28,799	30,225	17,963	14,971	5,094	10
Choi Fai	-	53	1,265	1,898	1,352	2
Choi Ha	2,427	3,808	6,821	8,001	2,330	3
Choi Hung	46,373	29,695	29,041	15,719	7,455	11
Choi Wan (I)	16,364	19,483	16,980	38,898	5,922	16
Choi Wan (II)	14,353	17,218	9,462	21,068	2,967	5
Choi Yuen	10,255	22,005	39,555	28,412	5,077	6
Chuk Yuen North	22,716	38,063	35,874	24,243	6,736	8
Chuk Yuen South	14,087	24,848	25,599	18,810	6,655	8
Chun Shek	8,057	7,502	5,834	11,097	2,191	4
Chung On	-	-	-	91	653	1
Fu Heng	6,485	9,854	8,929	9,015	5,858	8
Fu Shan	13,748	4,531	2,190	13,975	1,581	3
Fu Shin	14,963	27,782	35,047	8,391	5,517	6
Fuk Loi	16,960	16,674	18,110	12,504	3,129	9
Fung Tak	4,312	5,731	20,216	16,948	5,428	7
Fung Wah	1,691	3,406	5,274	4,954	1,282	2
Hau Tak	276	2,265	7,549	4,557	4,268	6
Heng On	16,600	28,905	35,192	37,151	6,076	7
Hin Keng	16,821	42,503	58,240	19,577	5,876	8
Hing Man	12,002	24,536	19,764	9,213	1,999	3
Hing Tin	25,739	12,903	8,789	12,697	2,448	3
Hing Tung	-	-	107	158	2,043	3
Hing Wah	10,026	8,147	11,567	14,739	3,578	7
Ho Man Tin	9,771	9,846	8,661	11,129	3,970	8
Hung Hom	753	1,154	1,412	640	645	2
Jordan Valley*	439	211	265	9	-	-
Ka Fuk	-	1	337	1,843	1,999	3
Kai Yip	11,410	22,368	24,208	20,280	4,300	6
Kam Peng	-	-	-	9	255	1
Kin Sang	3,027	3,682	5,637	4,237	2,652	4
King Lam	4,000	8,615	10,927	8,654	5,507	7
Ko Chiu Road *	2,765	1,479	566	4	-	-
Ko Yee	-	82	816	1,044	914	2
Kwai Chung	12,928	10,108	39,963	5,260	6,782	32
Kwai Fong	6,921	6,008	8,703	6,711	4,420	8
Kwai Hing	4,625	4,637	2,696	2,536	1,528	4
Kwai Shing East	2,927	13,288	24,583	2,060	1,904	4
Kwai Shing West	14,968	23,566	22,070	30,294	5,254	10
Kwong Fuk	18,993	12,895	24,369	23,639	6,190	8
Kwong Tin	509	2,335	8,763	4,278	2,453	4
Kwong Yuen	6,733	9,332	11,307	13,323	4,656	6
Kwun Tong (LYMR)	1,096	1,710	2,391	208	1,245	7
Lai King	18,702	20,232	26,749	11,187	4,209	7

**Repair and maintenance expenditure of public rental housing estates under the Housing Authority**

NAME OF ESTATE	1993-94 S'000	1994-95 S'000	1995-96 S'000	1996-97 (Estimated) S'000	Number of domestic units	Number of domestic blocks
Lai Kok	10,447	5,671	4,628	14,604	3,068	8
Lai On	219	1,017	2,349	1,994	1,438	5
Lai Yiu	4,939	14,819	17,621	7,068	2,402	4
Lam Tin (I-II, III*)	8,679	3,198	10,393	7,240	8,967	10
Lee On	239	2,376	5,965	5,839	3,632	3
Lei Cheng Uk	9,696	9,082	13,543	8,199	4,832	10
Lei Muk Shue(I & II)	28,313	16,402	31,745	14,613	5,530	13
Lei Tung	22,712	49,508	37,228	22,726	7,536	8
Lek Yuen	8,931	10,765	8,601	13,617	3,210	7
Leung King	10,864	19,009	17,513	22,224	6,844	8
Lok Fu	6,435	16,141	5,781	9,274	3,684	11
Lok Wah North	9,515	7,433	9,324	6,664	2,977	8
Lok Wah South	14,974	25,709	25,962	23,980	7,008	6
Long Ping	26,633	32,419	35,793	21,964	8,483	15
Lower Ngau Tau Kok (I)	8,917	14,017	9,734	9,544	5,169	7
Lower Ngau Tau Kok (II)	8,737	18,391	10,782	10,173	5,412	7
Lung Hang	14,026	13,476	11,910	10,732	4,384	6
Lung Tin	845	849	1,337	2,295	733	13
Ma Hang	74	506	1,050	838	658	4
Ma Tau Wai	14,468	16,049	10,654	8,507	2,075	5
Mei Tung	904	6,043	11,655	7,038	664	2
Mei Lam	11,504	12,652	12,179	8,473	4,162	4
Ming Tak	-	-	-	70	1,561	2
Model Housing	6,587	10,740	2,038	400	667	7
Nam Cheong	8,639	7,049	5,930	6,339	1,897	7
Nam Shan	12,162	21,006	25,002	14,025	2,848	8
Ngan Wan	1,834	1,365	1,602	1,643	466	4
North Point	5,415	9,744	4,814	4,373	1,956	7
Oi Man	13,207	21,625	46,610	43,627	6,287	12
On Ting	36,049	37,971	26,052	10,536	5,049	6
On Yam	-	1,246	5,823	4,379	5,375	8
Pak Tin	1,708	1,050	1,867	714	5,159	13
Ping Shek	23,579	18,141	10,062	6,856	4,575	7
Po Lam	8,863	18,500	19,920	9,474	5,007	6
Pok Hong	39,023	49,102	12,221	12,187	5,479	8
Sai Wan	6,530	6,363	4,938	2,915	638	5
Sam Shing	11,694	7,053	7,245	9,343	1,833	3
San Fat	6,397	7,395	9,460	1,881	2,131	4
Sau Mau Ping (I-III, IV*)	41,030	38,281	39,954	25,717	17,895	24
Sha Kok	27,793	39,247	14,300	19,203	6,424	7
Shan King	31,435	56,622	48,298	30,508	8,645	9
Shatin Pass	3,121	3,903	2,950	3,352	1,278	2
Shek Kip Mei	25,770	32,572	18,768	16,710	8,305	44
Shek Lei	16,028	27,982	41,554	47,996	12,675	18
Shek Pai Wan	3,830	7,911	9,183	3,817	4,557	6
Shek Wai Kok	19,201	21,018	12,103	16,779	6,502	8
Shek Yam	7,224	7,103	4,519	1,019	2,005	4
Shek Yam East	-	-	-	104	2,332	3
Shui Pin Wai	11,299	13,087	7,518	9,044	2,135	6
Shun Lee	17,331	17,532	28,366	36,309	4,450	7
Shun On	15,212	18,456	10,497	22,865	3,001	3
Shun Tin	29,359	80,548	32,324	48,012	7,026	11
Siu Sai Wan	7,988	12,965	31,374	28,278	6,163	12
So Uk	13,404	18,979	37,676	14,336	5,314	16
Sun Chui	39,162	22,753	15,386	14,080	6,698	8
Sun Tin Wai	12,784	34,152	25,833	14,744	3,432	8
Tai Hang Tung	12,913	23,450	20,396	5,627	2,375	12
Tai Hing	41,153	29,167	25,396	32,037	8,596	7

Repair and maintenance expenditure of public rental housing estates under the Housing Authority

NAME OF ESTATE	1993-94 \$'000	1994-95 \$'000	1995-96 \$'000	1996-97 (Estimated) \$'000	Number of domestic units	Number of domestic blocks
Tai Ping	4,305	3,535	4,892	3,663	1,429	4
Tai Wo	10,456	23,265	13,531	13,950	7,173	9
Tai Wo Hau	16,560	15,374	19,155	14,710	8,750	18
Tai Yuen	23,671	12,553	13,123	12,977	4,878	7
Tak Tin	6,468	19,755	48,686	23,640	5,342	7
Tin King	3,163	4,350	7,441	6,656	3,297	4
Tin Ping	9,051	12,595	28,107	12,317	5,698	7
Tin Shui(I & II)	1,645	8,027	17,156	9,764	7,785	12
Tin Wan*	(3)	-	-	-	-	-
Tin Yiu(I & II)	3,705	10,076	13,935	10,203	8,478	12
Tsing Yi	13,374	20,251	17,339	4,391	3,230	4
Tsui Lam	5,967	18,948	22,214	11,364	4,932	8
Tsui Ping(N & S)	9,339	15,463	34,221	42,273	11,424	19
Tsui Wan	3,972	4,669	8,441	7,440	2,340	4
Tsz Ching	4,855	1,145	2,742	2,152	2,571	8
Tsz Lok (Redevelopment)	-	-	(14)	1,032	1,348	2
Tsz Lok*	(231)	(371)	-	-	-	-
Tsz Man	1,806	2,719	6,393	1,893	3,579	4
Tsz Oi	2,051	2,765	2,647	188	1,572	7
Tsz On*	2,184	1,219	113	(30)	-	-
Tung Tau(I & II)	15,248	26,632	27,863	33,186	9,826	22
Un Chau Street	4,146	5,434	4,789	3,272	2,303	4
Upper Ngau Tau Kok	24,792	34,642	34,260	15,317	5,929	9
Upper Pak Tin*	25,057	16,968	8,221	5,616	-	-
Upper Wong Tai Sin	5,211	25,747	8,125	2,992	3,267	20
Valley Road	7,135	8,592	14,989	7,487	3,216	16
Wah Fu (I)	35,584	49,274	49,655	15,795	4,827	12
Wah Fu (II)	15,934	21,920	17,083	15,176	4,379	6
Wah Kwai	3,345	4,877	6,057	4,092	3,384	5
Wah Ming	8,696	15,362	21,774	33,332	5,868	7
Wah Sum	-	-	27	1,160	1,481	2
Wan Tau Tong	1,633	2,384	4,052	8,712	2,766	3
Wan Tsui	14,272	34,014	29,506	7,747	3,493	10
Wang Tau Hom	14,619	33,577	30,324	17,558	5,900	18
Wo Che	18,217	29,186	13,190	19,897	6,071	12
Wo Lok	11,402	7,270	13,093	14,144	1,943	11
Wong Chuk Hang	9,512	11,064	24,476	19,127	5,480	9
Lover Wong Tai Sin(I & II)	10,741	18,425	45,777	49,145	11,458	24
Wu King	11,598	13,555	20,404	11,804	4,386	6
Yau Oi	62,435	46,653	56,635	45,105	9,153	11
Yau Tong	6,598	4,140	3,688	767	2,569	14
Yiu On	6,747	11,106	17,776	15,647	4,794	7
Yiu Tung	-	1,228	9,729	5,020	5,174	11
Yue Wan	13,629	11,051	17,370	17,249	2,179	4
Yuen Long	3,829	3,799	5,116	4,072	3,507	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,788,477</b>	<b>2,332,967</b>	<b>2,466,708</b>	<b>1,952,592</b>	<b>663,383</b>	<b>1,239</b>

Note: (1) Estates with \* were demolished

Note: (2) Figures in bracket denote negative expenditures as a result of technical adjustments of previous years.

End

No plan to increase sewage charges in 1997-98

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Chan Wing-chan and a written reply by the acting Secretary for Works, Mr Keith Kwok, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

The Government has announced that, since the voting down of the resolution to increase sewage charges and trade effluent surcharge by this Council last year, the Sewage Services Trading Fund only managed to break even at the end of last year. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council whether the Drainage Services Department will propose increases in the sewage charges and trade effluent surcharges again in the near future; if so, of the estimated rates of increase.

Reply:

Mr President,

As at 31 March 1997, the SSTF had a small accumulated surplus of about \$17 million, down from \$76 million as at 31 March 1996. The Administration has no plan to increase sewage charges in the 1997-98 financial year. However, many new sewerage infrastructure projects, including the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Plant, will be coming on stream over the next few years. Therefore there will be a need to increase sewage charges in the future in order to recover the resultant increases in direct operating and maintenance costs in accordance with the user pays and the polluter pays principles and achieve breakeven.

It is too early to say what increases may be proposed in the future. Any proposals for increases in sewage charges will be subject to approval by the Legislature in the usual manner.

End

Implementation of mother tongue teaching

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Eric Li and a written reply by the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Since 1986, the Education Department has been providing extra resources to schools which have adopted mother-tongue teaching, in order to promote students' language proficiency. Recently, the Government has further proposed to implement mother-tongue teaching in all Secondary 1 (S1) classes in secondary schools throughout the territory from September 1998 onward. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council of:

- (a) the differences in English language proficiency between students of Chinese middle schools and students of Anglo-Chinese secondary schools over the past ten years;
- (b) the ratios of school-leavers from Chinese middle schools and school-leaver from Anglo-Chinese secondary schools, who were admitted to local universities in the past three years; and
- (c) the specific measures in place to ensure that there will be sufficient qualified teachers to teach the relevant subjects upon the implementation of mother-tongue teaching in all S1 classes next year?

Reply:

- (a) & (b) It is not possible to compare the English language proficiency between students of Chinese middle schools and those of Anglo-Chinese schools over the past ten years. This is because the references to Chinese Middle or Anglo-Chinese in the names of public sector schools were dropped in 1987 as a result of the Government's stated policy to promote mother tongue teaching in 1987. Also, records of English language results kept by the Education Department, the Hong Kong Examinations Authority or the UGC-funded institutions are not categorised into Chinese Middle or Anglo-Chinese schools. We are therefore unable to provide the requested information.

- (c) Since 1986, the Education Department or subsequently the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd), has provided a block-release eight-week course for in-service teachers to improve their proficiency in Chinese language and to prepare them for teaching in the Chinese medium. Up to June 1997, more than 1850 secondary school teachers will have attended the course.

In addition, the Education Department has conducted workshops to help in-service teachers teach different subjects in the medium of Chinese. The number of workshops conducted and the number of teachers participated between the 1993/94 and 1996/97 school years are:

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of workshops</i>	<i>No. of participants</i>
1993/94	341	11,650
1994/95	256	7,841
1995/96	307	10,269
1996/97*	188	6,269

(\*Note: Figures up to February 1997)

In the 1997/98 school year, the department intends to provide at least another 300 workshops with a capacity of 11,000.

From the 1994-95 academic year, the HKIEd has introduced pre-service teacher education courses to equip student teachers with the knowledge and skills for teaching effectively in the medium of Chinese in secondary schools. The first cohort of 194 students graduated in June 1996. The projected numbers of graduates from two pre-service teacher education courses in 1997 and 1998 are:

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>June 1997</b>	<b>June 1998</b>
Certificate in Secondary Education (Chinese) Course (Two-year full-time)	185	188
Certificate in Secondary Education (Chinese) Course (Three-year full-time)*	68	142
<b>Total:</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>330</b>

\* Course offered in alternate years

The Government is confident that there will be adequate teachers who are able to teach in the Chinese medium in Secondary One classes from the 1998/99 school year onwards.

For years beyond 1998/99, the HKIEd and Education Department will continue to provide the pre-service / in-service courses and workshops mentioned above. In addition, the Hong Kong Baptist University has indicated that it will introduce "teaching in mother tongue" as a topic in the subject of "Teaching Principles and Subject Instruction" in its Postgraduate Diploma in Education course with effect from the 1997-98 academic year. The University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong have also indicated that they will review the curriculum of their teacher training courses to provide support for teachers in mother tongue teaching.

End

#### Ex-gratia payment for factory estate clearance

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Following is a question by the Hon Zachary Wong and a written reply by the Secretary for Housing, Mr Dominic Wong, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Regarding the issue of compensation payment in the demolition of the factory estates in Cheung Sha Wan and Yuen Long, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the reasons why those commercial tenants who have been paying a higher rent are given lower compensation payments than those who have been paying a lower rent; and
- (b) whether it will review the above compensation arrangement; if so, when this will be carried out; if not, why not?

Answer:

Mr President,

Tenants affected by factory estate clearances have no legal right to compensation. The Housing Authority may make ex-gratia payments to affected clearerees. In so doing, the HA distinguishes between tenants paying market rents and tenants paying lower rents (the latter being former clearerees of squatter factories and cottage workshops). The ex-gratia payment granted is related to the financial loss suffered by the tenant, assessed in terms of the difference between the market rent and the rent paid. As a tenant already paying market rent normally suffers less than a tenant paying below market rent for a similar unit, the latter generally receives a higher ex-gratia payment. This arrangement has been implemented since 1982.

The HA determines the details of ex-gratia payment for each factory estate clearance having regard to individual circumstances. Ex-gratia payments for the factory estate clearances in Cheung Sha Wan and Yuen Long in 1990 and 1996 respectively follow the standard arrangement mentioned in paragraph 1 above. As the arrangement is fair and reasonable, there is no plan to review it at present.

End

#### Data on working population of new Chinese immigrants

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Following is a question by the Hon Leung Yiu-chung and a written reply by the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Regarding new arrivals from the Mainland who have resided in the territory for less than seven years, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the current population of the above new arrivals in the territory;
- (b) of a breakdown of such new arrivals in employment by occupation and level of education; and

- (c) whether it has carried out any study to examine how the occupations of the new arrivals relate to their educational levels; if so, what the details are; and whether the findings of the survey show that the educational levels of the new arrivals are incompatible with their occupations?

Reply:

Mr President,

- (a) According to statistics provided by the Immigration Department, the total number of one-way permit holders from China who entered Hong Kong during the period of 1 April 1990 to 31 March 1997 was 263,303. As regards the number of such immigrants who are still residing in Hong Kong, the latest figure is 169,319 based on the 1996 Population By-census.
- (b) A breakdown of the number of new immigrants from China who are in employment by occupation and level of education, which was compiled by the Census and Statistics Department on the basis of the above total number of new immigrants from the 1996 By census, is at Annex A.
- (c) We have not carried out any specific study on the relationship between the educational background and occupation of new immigrants from China. However, as revealed from the statistical breakdown at Annex A, the respective percentages of new immigrants with different educational levels employed in each of the different occupations are broadly similar to those of other local workers in the same occupations as shown in Annex B. There is therefore no evidence to suggest that compared with other local workers, the educational levels of the new immigrants from China who are in employment are incompatible with their occupations.

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Working Population of New Immigrants from China<sup>(1)</sup> by Occupation and Educational Attainment, 1996

Occupation	Educational Attainment												Total	
	No schooling/ kindergarten		Primary		Secondary		Sixth Form		Tertiary : Non-degree		Tertiary : Degree			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>New Immigrants from China<sup>(1)</sup></i>														
Managers and administrators	14	0.6	286	2.1	1 559	4.8	393	11.0	460	20.1	2 465	36.8	5 177	8.5
Professionals and associate professionals	0	0.0	7	0.1	1 086	3.3	414	11.6	659	28.8	2 099	31.4	4 265	7.0
Clerks	22	0.9	432	3.2	5 122	15.7	1 065	29.9	476	20.8	1 127	16.8	8 244	13.5
Service workers and shop sales workers	241	10.1	2 825	20.9	9 079	27.7	633	17.8	255	11.1	444	6.6	13 477	22.0
Craft and related workers	195	8.2	1 844	13.6	6 076	18.6	470	13.2	237	10.3	189	2.8	9 011	14.7
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	99	4.2	1 261	9.3	3 385	10.3	231	6.5	36	1.6	65	1.0	5 077	8.3
Elementary occupations	1 750	73.6	6 764	50.0	6 232	19.0	349	9.8	140	6.1	254	3.8	15 489	25.3
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers; armed forces and occupations not classifiable	57	2.4	107	0.8	181	0.6	7	0.2	28	1.2	49	0.7	429	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 378</b> (3.9)	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13 526</b> (22.1)	<b>100.0</b>	<b>32 720</b> (53.5)	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3 562</b> (5.8)	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2 291</b> (3.7)	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6 692</b> (10.9)	<b>100.0</b>	<b>61 169</b> (100.0)	<b>100.0</b>

Notes : (1) New Immigrants from China refer to persons who reported in the 1996 Population By-census that they were born in China with nationality 'Chinese (place of domicile - Hong Kong)' and had stayed in Hong Kong for less than seven years.

Figures in brackets refer to the percentage share of the figure above in the row total.

Source : 1996 Population By-census

## Working Population of other Hong Kong residents by Occupation and Educational Attainment, 1996

Occupation	Educational Attainment												Total		
	No schooling/ kindergarten		Primary		Secondary		Sixth Form		Tertiary : Non-degree		Tertiary : Degree				
<i>Other Hong Kong Residents</i>															
Managers and administrators	2 726	3.2	32 291	6.0	151 386	9.6	34 449	17.2	30 345	16.3	112 949	28.3	364 146	12.2	
Professionals and associate professionals	147	0.2	1 296	0.2	157 179	10.0	54 962	27.5	97 414	52.4	205 460	51.5	516 458	17.3	
Clerks	1 118	1.3	20 736	3.9	374 396	23.8	57 394	28.7	26 668	14.4	24 163	6.1	504 475	16.9	
Service workers and shop sales workers	7 677	8.9	81 964	15.3	274 173	17.4	18 717	9.4	8 020	4.3	15 693	3.9	406 244	13.6	
Craft and related workers	9 173	10.6	106 643	19.9	224 913	14.3	9 460	4.7	10 411	5.6	3 532	0.9	364 132	12.2	
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	7 160	8.3	87 820	16.4	151 393	9.6	5 113	2.6	1 526	0.8	1 820	0.5	254 832	8.5	
Elementary occupations	52 347	60.5	199 307	37.1	234 098	14.9	18 960	9.5	10 726	5.8	33 755	8.5	549 193	18.4	
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers; armed forces and occupations not classifiable	6 142	7.1	6 636	1.2	7 745	0.5	681	0.3	628	0.3	1 217	0.3	23 049	0.8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>86 490</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>536 693</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 575 283</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>199 736</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>185 738</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>398 589</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2 982 529</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
	(2.9)		(18.0)		(52.8)		(6.7)		(6.2)		(13.4)		(100.0)		

Source : 1996 Population By-census

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