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## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Consultancy study on pricing of mapping services & product

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The Lands Department has appointed P-E Handley Walker (HK) and Ordnance Survey International to jointly study the costing and pricing of the survey services and mapping products provided by its Survey and Mapping Office (SMO).

A spokesman for the department said today (Sunday) that the eight-month study would include full costing analysis and would recommend a pricing policy on the SMO's present and future services and products.

"The consultant will also recommend copyright charges for all SMO products and advise on copyright protection.

"It will also identify market demand, devise marketing strategy and explore the possibilities of joint venture with private firms and public bodies," he said.

"With a view to increasing efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the SMO, the study will look into current practices and procedures, as well as the possibility for the office to become an independent department or a trading fund organisation," the spokesman added.

The SMO is responsible for land and air surveys and all types of mapping in Hong Kong. Its services and products are available to Government departments and the private sector.

End

Underpayment of wages incurs fine

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The Labour Department today (Sunday) warned employers against underpaying employees.

Fortune-Come Restaurant Ltd. in Tuen Mun was recently fined \$30,000 in Tuen Mun Magistracy for underpaying an imported worker's wages of about \$7,520.

"Under Section 23 of the Employment Ordinance, wages are due at the end of the wage period, and must be paid in full as soon as practicable and in any case, not later than seven days after the end of the period," Acting Senior Labour Officer (Prosecutions), Mrs Tonia Leung, said.

Any employer who fails to comply with the provision may incur a fine of \$200,000 and one year's imprisonment.

"Employees whose wages are not paid within the statutory period can approach the Labour Relations Service for advice and assistance," said Mrs Leung.

End

### Strengthening family support for young prisoners

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An Inmates-Parents Centre that will strengthen family support for inmates at the Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution, is being built by the Correctional Services Department with a recent \$3.2 million donation from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.

Family support is considered a vital part of the rehabilitation programme for the institution's 220 female young offenders under the age of 21.

"To enhance and strengthen family support, we intend to invite parents and guardians to see for themselves the institutional activities, to have regular and long gatherings with the inmates so as to promote association, communication and understanding between them, and to participate in group discussions to share experiences and ideas on how best to help rehabilitation," a spokesman for the CSD said.

"Moreover, parents will be educated in the prevention of young people's involvement in crime and drug abuse," he added.

The centre, scheduled for completion within a year, will be a proper venue for family education, reintegration programmes and activities organised and supervised by the correctional and aftercare staff.

Since its first donation of \$130,000 in 1979, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust has donated more than \$31 million to CSD for projects.

In addition to the language laboratories, recent Trust-fund projects included the establishment of a Prisoners' Education Trust Fund in 1992, the setting up of computer training rooms at CSD institutions at Cape Collinson and Pik Uk in 1996, and the provision of language laboratories at Stanley prison and Lai King Training Centre later this year.

End

Electronic service for import and export declarations

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Hong Kong will enter another era of electronic commerce starting from tomorrow (Tuesday) when importers and exporters will be able to lodge their trade declarations with the Customs and Excise Department electronically using the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) service.

"With the availability of the new service, importers and exporters may choose between lodging declarations using paper forms, diskettes or using the EDI service," said a spokesman for the Customs and Excise Department.

"But we are going to phase out the Diskette Submission Scheme by December 1997. Paper declarations will be phased out over the next three years.

"Lodging electronic declarations is more convenient. The service is available 16 hours a day, seven days a week and of course you save travelling time and there is no need to queue," the spokesman added.

He pointed out that the format of electronic declarations was laid down in the Import and Export (Registration) Regulations and the Industrial Training (Clothing Industry) Ordinance which were published in the Government gazette last Thursday (March 27).

The introduction of the EDI service is a major step forward in the Government's efforts to provide an efficient and user friendly infrastructure and environment for business in Hong Kong.

The service has been made possible through Tradelink, a joint venture between the Government and the private sector which was granted the exclusive rights to launch electronic services to handle a range of government-trade-related transactions.

Electronic declarations can be lodged in accordance with requirements specified in the 'Hong Kong EDI Implementation Instructions for Import/Export Declarations Version 2.0' published by Tradelink.

End

AMS Non-emergency ambulance section to be relocated  
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The Ambulance Section of the Auxiliary Medical Service providing non-emergency ambulance service will be relocated to 12th floor, Eastern Law Courts Building, 29 Tai On Street, Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong with effect from tomorrow (Tuesday).

The Auxiliary Medical Service will also extend the non-emergency ambulance service to cover the whole territory on the same date.

Those who wish to apply for non-emergency ambulance service may send their applications to the above-mentioned address by mail or by fax (Fax No: 2886 5397).

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Twelve organisations to raise funds in April  
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Twelve organisations have been granted permission to raise funds for charitable purposes next month (April), a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Monday).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Permits are given to the following organisations for raising funds next month:

Flag Day

<u>Event Day</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
April 5	The Road Safety Association Ltd.
April 12	Hong Kong AIDS Foundation
April 19	The Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon
April 26	Christian Family Service Centre

Subscription

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
April 1 - 14	International Buddhist Progress Society (HK) Ltd.
April 1 - 6	Creative Trend o/b Cosmo Plan Ltd.
April 1 - 21	Dragon Centre Management Ltd.
April 4 - 6	Ferrero Asia Ltd.
April 6 & 13	Earthcare (Hong Kong) Ltd.
April 19 & 26	Land of Virtue Centre Ltd.
April 19	Chaplaincy Ministry Committee Shatin Hospitals
April 20	Sowers Action

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