



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Joint effort to halt growing trend of drug abuse

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Governments, non-government organisations (NGOs), schools and families all have to work together in mutual support to address effectively the manifold problems related to drug abuse, the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, said today (Monday).

Speaking at the 15th International Federation of Non-government Organisations Conference for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse today, the Governor said: "The nature of the problem we face is growing. Since 1989 in Hong Kong we have seen a persistent and worrying increase in drug abuse by those under 21."

The number of reported drug abusers rose by only 15 per cent overall between 1989 and 1993, to around 17,500, the number under the age of 21 increased by 147 per cent, to over 3,000. Over 50 per cent of newly reported cases are young people.

The Governor noted that comparing with other cities, the drug problem in Hong Kong was not as serious as that in many other cities, but improvement was still needed in some aspects, like the coverage and efficiency of drug education; the detection and strengthening of international co-operation; and the establishments of more treatment facilities to meet the demand.

Mr Patten said actions had been taken in the areas of treatment, enforcement and education.

On the treatment side, the Governor listed a number of measures to help the young drug abusers, such as to set up a separate treatment facilities for them; to strengthen the local networks among social service units; to provide more training programmes for front line social workers and to develop programmes to encourage greater parental support.

The Hospital Authority's treatment services for psychotropic substance abusers will also be expanded.

A new counselling centre in the New Territories Region for young abusers and two more residential treatment centres for young opiate abusers will also be established, he added.

On the law enforcement front, Mr Patten said there would be measures like increasing the number of pharmacy inspectors to conduct frequent inspection of drug retail premises.

He said: "We are amending the Pharmacy and Poisons Regulation to increase the maximum penalties for offences of illegal or improper sale of drugs."

He added that the Customs and Excise Service would be implementing new control systems on precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

On the education front, the Governor pointed out that better training of teachers and the provision of better education material was needed.

Mr Patten said a summit conference was planned to hold next year to bring together schools, parents and non-government organisations to plan a community-wide education and support to try to halt the growing trend in drug abuse by young people.

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Governor to visit Republic of Korea and Japan

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, will make the first official visit by a Hong Kong Governor to the Republic of Korea from December 11 to 13, after which he will pay a four-day official visit to Japan.

Announcing this today (Monday), a Government spokesman said during his visit to Seoul, Mr Patten would call on senior Government leaders, the Foreign Minister, Dr Han Sung-joo, and other Ministers and business leaders.

Mr Patten will deliver a keynote speech on "Korea and Hong Kong: Opportunities for Growth" at the Second Joint Meeting of Hong Kong/Korea and Korea/Hong Kong Business Round Table, and will be a guest of honour at a breakfast meeting of the Korean Newspaper Editors' Association.

"Mr Patten's visit to Korea, the first by a Hong Kong Governor, underlines the growing importance of the economic and trade links between us," the spokesman said.

"The Governor looks forward to discussing ways in which business relations between Hong Kong and Korea can be developed and how the partnership in regional economic co-operation, through APEC, can be deepened.

"He also looks forward to explaining to influential Korean business and political leaders the good opportunities and prospects that Hong Kong enjoys. He will also use the visit to encourage Hong Kong businessmen to respond to the opportunities afforded by Korea's large and growing market."

Mr Patten will leave Seoul on the afternoon of December 13 for Tokyo, where he will meet the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, other senior Ministers, Government officials and leading businessmen.

He will deliver a major speech at a luncheon hosted by the Japan/Hong Kong Society, the Hong Kong/Japan Business Co-operation Committee, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office.

He will also attend the opening of the 17th Joint Plenary Meeting of the Hong Kong/Japan Business Co-operation Committee and the Japan/Hong Kong Business Co-operation Committee.

The Government spokesman said the visit to Korea and Japan was part of the ongoing programme by the Governor and other senior Government officials to promote Hong Kong's long-term economic and trade prospects in the international business community.

Mrs Patten will accompany the Governor on the visit. The Information Co-ordinator, Mr Kerry McGlynn; Personal Adviser, Mr Edward Llewellyn; and, Deputy Private Secretary, Mr Kim Salkeld, will travel with them.

Mr Patten will return to Hong Kong on the evening of December 16.

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Governor presents insignia and commendations to 109

The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, presented insignia and commendations to 109 people at a ceremony at Government House this (Monday) evening.

Of them, 83 were decorated by the Queen for services to the public, 14 were given the St John Insignia and 12 the Governor's Commendations.

Following is the list of recipients:

CBE

Dr The Hon Raymond CHIEN Kuo-fung

Mr Michael SUEN Ming-yeung

The Hon Rosanna WONG Yick-ming

OBE

Professor CHANG Shu-ting

Mr CHOW Che-king

Dr James Z M KUNG

Mr Charles LEE Yeh-kwong

Professor LEUNG Wai-sun

Mrs Eleanor LING Ching-man

Mr Paul WONG Kam-chiu

Mr John YEUNG Hin-chung

Dr YEUNG POON Yeuk-foo

MBE

Mr Thomas CHAN Siu-kam
Mr CHAN Yan-leung
Mr CHEUNG Yiu-kwan
Mr CHUNG Chi-hang
Miss Mary FUNG Shiu-kai
Dr Erik KVAN
Mr LAM Siu-tin
Mrs Cecilia LEE YIP Wai-kay
Mr LEUNG Cheuk-ming
Mr Herbert LIANG Hin-ying
Mr David LUNG Ping-ye
Mr MA Chi-keung
Mr NG Bun-hung
Mr TAM Tak-kwong
Mr TSANG Chiu-ning
Mr WONG Yu-kwan
Madam YEUNG Kam-chun
Mrs Julia YEUNG LI Yick-ho
Mr Paul YU Shiu-tin
Mr YU Tai

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Chau Ka-keung

QPM

Mr Douglas LAU Yuk-kuen
Mr Basil Francis LIM Sak-yeung
Mr Benny NG Ching-kwok
Mr David DEPTFORD

QESM

Mr Paul CHAN Hoi

ISM

Mr WONG Yat-keung
Mr WONG Yim

CPM

Police

Mr LEE Ming-kwai
Mr Norman Alexander RAE
Mr Neil Edward Harrell McCABE
Mr CHAN Kwok-kan
Mr Michael Harold FRANCIS
Mr Martin Swinnerton COWLEY
Mr John Edward BURTON
Mr John NG Sheung-lok
Mr Ian James STENTON
Mr CHIANG Kwok-keung
Mr Kedith CHOW Keng-kan
Mr WONG Tim-fat
Mr TSANG Loi-fuk
Mr LAM Yim-fat
Mr LEUNG Sum
Mr SIN King-ki
Mr KWOK Yiu-wai
Mr LAU Yui-ki
Mr CHEUNG Chiu-wai
Mr WU Kwong-cheung

Fire

Mr HO King-san
Mr LO Sik-lun

Badge of Honour

Mr CHAN King-lun
Mr CHAN Shan-ho
Mr CHAN Tak-hang
Mr CHAN Tung
Mr Jimson CHAN Wing-tai
Mr CHEUNG Fo-taj
Mr Benny CHIA Chun-heng
Mr CHIU Wai-shing
Mr FUNG Yan-yee
Mr Stephen HO Fei-chi
Mr KONG Tze-wing
Miss Hilda KWAN Wei-yin
Mr KWONG Kam-shing
Miss LEE Lai-shan
Mr LIU Cheung-hin
Mr LO Man-tuen
Mr MO Chi-sing
Mr TANG Ki-tat
Mr TSUI Cheung-ling
Mr YAU Chung-wan
Madam Cecilia YEUNG Lai-yin

Governor's Commendations

Mr Stephen Bruce FARRER
Mr LUI Kai-man
Mr TAM Kin-wah
Mr LO King-wing
Mr Sydney SUN Hiu-ming
Mr Brian John CARROLL
Mr Alfred Colin MORRIS
Mr Peter GREGORY
Mr Alexander Bruce BREMNER
Mr Neil MALONEY
Mr Robert FIELD
Mr Thomas Roger BATTY

St John Ambulance

Commander Brothers

Mr SIU Kam Ping
Mr John Vanham Green MITCHELL

Officer Brothers

Mr TUNG Wai Kuen
Mr CHAN Kam Wah

Serving Brothers

Dr Alfred SO Ping Fai
Mr LAM Man Kong
Mr LAM Kam Kuen
Mr YEUNG Yee Kit
Mr YUNG Kwok Kit
Mr KU Sze Chung

Serving Sisters

Miss Mary MAN Miu Yung
Miss YEUNG Ching Lan
Miss Pauline SO Fung Lan
Miss TSUI King Ling

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Transcript of Chief Secretary's media session

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The following is a transcript of the media session by the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, after her luncheon address to the Swiss Business Council this (Monday) afternoon:-

Mrs Chan: Good afternoon, everyone. As you know, I've just come from addressing the Swiss Business Council on what I believe to be an important speech and I was very glad of chatting with those sitting at the head table to find that the topics that I covered in my speech, in fact, reflected the concerns of the Swiss businessmen here in Hong Kong. I was told that there will be a delegation of representatives of international chambers of commerce who will be going up to China next Monday and Tuesday. They will be meeting with Chinese leaders and will be reflecting to Chinese leaders their concerns. Of course, essentially, what they are interested in knowing is can they continue to do business in Hong Kong. In my speech, I drew attention to what I believe to be the three key ingredients for Hong Kong's success and why international businessmen are interested in doing business here. Those three elements are first, the rule of law, a clean, efficient civil service and operating a level playing field and we must make sure that we maintain these valuable elements. Now, underlying these vital elements particularly that of the rule of law, we have some important decisions to make. Specifically, we need to decide on the way forward for the Court of Final Appeal. We welcome the Law Society Council's endorsement of the bill to establish the Court of Final Appeal. I understand that some members of the legal profession have reservations about the bill and, of course, we respect their reservations but we do have a decision to make. In our view, we have an agreement with the Chinese which we reached in 1991. It provides for a good Court of Final Appeal. We need to set up this Court of Final Appeal as quickly as possible and it is our intention to put the draft bill before the Legislative Council early next year.

Question: Mrs Chan, if the JLG fails to reach an agreement on the Court of Final Appeal Bill next week, will the Government be prepared to table the legislation?

Mrs Chan: I don't think there is any question of failing to reach an agreement. We already have an agreement with the Chinese on the setting up of the Court of Final Appeal. We have a bill that reflects that agreement and there is no way in which we can depart from the agreement which we reached with the Chinese. What we are now awaiting is, first of all, comments from the legal profession and I very much hope that the legal profession as a whole will see fit to endorse the bill. If they have any suggested amendments to the bill, we would be happy to consider them. But I repeat again. We cannot agree to any amendments that would place us in breach of the 1991 agreement. We are also waiting for Chinese comments on the draft bill and we hope very much that they will let us have these comments as soon as possible.

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Law Society Council's endorsement of CFA Bill welcomed

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The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, this (Monday) afternoon welcomed the Law Society Council's endorsement of the bill to establish the Court of Final Appeal.

Speaking to reporters after a luncheon address to the Swiss Business Council, Mrs Chan said: "I understand that some members of the legal profession have reservations about the bill and we respect their reservations but we do have a decision to make."

Noting that the Government had reached an agreement with the Chinese in 1991 on the setting up of the Court of Final Appeal, Mrs Chan said: "We need to set up this Court of Final Appeal as quickly as possible and it is our intention to put the draft bill before the Legislation Council early next year."

Mrs Chan said the Government was awaiting the comments from the legal profession and she very much hoped that the legal profession as a whole would see fit to endorse the bill.

"If they have any suggested amendments to the bill, we would be happy to consider them.

"But I repeat again. We cannot agree to any amendments that would place us in breach of the 1991 agreement," she added.

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Date set for 1995 LegCo elections

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The 1995 Legislative Council elections are to be held on September 17, a Government spokesman announced today (Monday).

A notice to formally appoint the election date will be published in the gazette in due course.

The spokesman said it was decided that all three sets of elections to the Legislative Council - the functional constituency, geographical constituency and Election Committee elections - should be held on the same day.

"This arrangement is intended to facilitate voting by electors," he said.

"The independent Boundary and Election Commission, which will be responsible for supervising and conducting the elections, is confident that satisfactory polling and counting arrangements can be made," he added.

The spokesman said the Commission was working on the detailed arrangements for the elections and that the public would be consulted.

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Study on introduction of Real Time Gross Settlement completed

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The feasibility study on the introduction of a Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) for Hong Kong's interbank payment system has been completed by a consultant commissioned by the Hong Kong Association of Banks (HKAB).

The report has been forwarded to the HKAB and the Committee on Payment System (CPS) for consideration.

The CPS, chaired by the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) and with members comprising the leading bankers in Hong Kong, was established in June this year to provide policy steer to the feasibility study.

The study concludes that it would be feasible to implement the RTGS project in phases beginning February 1996. The study recommends the adoption of a system with the following features:

- * compliance with international standards;
- * final settlement across the books of the HKMA;

- * single tier system in which all licensed banks would maintain clearing accounts with the HKMA;
- * seamless interface with the Central Moneymarkets Unit operated by the HKMA to enable the banks to obtain intraday liquidity through same-day Repurchase Agreement to fund their clearing account payments; and
- * allowance for domestic and international linkages to facilitate real time delivery versus payment (DvP) and real time payment versus payment (PvP).

The report also recommends the establishment of a new clearing and settlement company to be jointly owned by the HKMA and HKAB.

Financial liabilities of this new clearing company would be guaranteed by the HKMA and the three Continuing Members of HKAB.

The capital cost associated with the implementation of RTGS is still being assessed, but is expected to be cheaper than similar systems elsewhere, given the geographical compactness of Hong Kong and its advanced telecommunication system and electronic banking technology.

"The report offers a clear direction for the development of Hong Kong's payment and settlement systems," Chairman of HKAB Mr Paul Selway-Swift said.

"We will need to review the report in detail within the Association but are comfortable with the main conclusions reached," he said.

The Chief Executive of the HKMA, Mr Joseph Yam, said: "I am pleased with the Report's main conclusion that Hong Kong would be able to implement an RTGS system which meets the international standards within a short time frame.

"However, we need to study in greater detail the report's findings according to the basic parameters advised by CPS. We will present HKMA's recommendations on the way forward to the Exchange Fund Advisory Committee."

At present, the payment and settlement arrangements are provided by the Clearing House of the HKAB, which has contracted the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd. as the Management Bank to operate the clearing system.

In January this year, the HKMA Working Party on Payment and Settlement System recommended Hong Kong to move to RTGS as soon as possible.

Having accepted the Working Party's recommendation, the HKAB in June commissioned Mr Paul Whitmore as the Project Co-ordinator to undertake the feasibility study.

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Study on Central and East Kowloon Development

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The Director of Planning, Dr Peter Pun, today (Monday) signed a consultancy agreement with Shankland Cox Limited to commission the firm to undertake a study on the Central and East Kowloon Development Statement (CEKDS).

A spokesman for the Planning Department said the study aimed to provide a planning framework to guide the planning and development of Central and East Kowloon up to 2011.

"The Development Statement is to translate the broad Metroplan concepts into specific district planning targets," the spokesman said.

"It is the fifth to be prepared for the metropolitan area. So far Development Statements for West Kowloon, Tsuen Wan - Kwai Tsing and South East Kowloon have been completed, and that for Hong Kong Island West is under preparation.

"The areas for the CEKDS cover east of the Kowloon- Canton Railway Terminus and north of the Kai Tak Airport, including the Hung Hom Bay Reclamation, Ho Man Tin, Kowloon Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Ngau Tau Kok, Kwun Tong and Yau Tong.

"As compared to the other metro districts, much of Central and East Kowloon has been developed in the relatively recent past.

"The existing land use pattern is dominated by low and medium density private housing in Kowloon Tong and Ho Man Tin, industrial development on the flat land in San Po Kong, Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong, and large-scale public housing development on the foothills.

"The future development in Central and East Kowloon is likely to be influenced by changes both within the district and in the adjoining areas, particularly development in Tseung Kwan O and South East Kowloon.

"One of the primary goals of this study is, therefore, to achieve full land use-transport-environment integration with the surrounding metro districts," the spokesman added.

The study will be completed by February 1996.

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Largest commercial site in Fanling to be auctioned

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A prime site in Fanling is to be auctioned on January 25, 1995 for commercial development which, on completion, will provide more than 100,000 square metres of office and shop space.

The site, measuring 1.128 hectares at Luen Wo Hui, is the largest commercial site in the northeast New Territories to come under the hammer.

Details of the site and other conditions of sale will be gazetted on December 30.

District Lands Officer/North, Mr Albert So, said because it was a large site for a town centre development, he had written to all major developers and the Real Estate Developers Association informing them of the forthcoming auction.

"This is to give potential bidders ample time to make forward planning by providing them with the basic data of the site," Mr So said.

He said the new town centre would be a focal point for the rapidly expanding residential area in Luen Wo Hui, which is very close to the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone.

"Some military sites in the Fanling district are being planned for residential development in the future," he revealed.

"These include Dills Corner Camp, Lo Wu Camp and Burma Lines. The latter is just one kilometre north of Luen Wo Hui and this 28.4-hectare military site will have the capacity for about 4,700 flats.

"Looking at the site from a larger geographical context, the Fanling site is strategically located about 12 kilometres from Yiantian, a fast expanding container terminal just across the Sha Tau Kok border. Therefore its commercial/office potential is very promising," he added.

Close to the Fanling Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation Station, the site will be well served by minibus and other public transport services.

The maximum plot ratio for offices, commercial uses and shop is 9.5 and around 1,000 car parking spaces will be provided.

The basic development parameters include a day nursery, a social centre for the elderly, a public bus terminus, a public car park, an internal pedestrian walkway and a landscaped area of about 2,200 square metres.

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Pilot test for proposed traffic management scheme for IEC

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A pilot test for a proposed traffic management scheme will be implemented along Island Eastern Corridor (IEC) between 3 pm and 10 pm on Thursday (December 8).

A spokesman for the Transport Department said today (Monday) that the pilot test involved prohibiting all vehicles which entered the IEC from Man Hong Street slip road in North Point from merging into the approach lanes for the Eastern Harbour Crossing (EHC).

"The purpose of the test is to assess the overall traffic improvement and impact of the proposed scheme against its objective of improving the traffic movement along the eastbound IEC near the eastbound approach to the EHC," the spokesman said

He added that the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Eastern District Board had agreed on this pilot test and that the test would be reviewed to determine if further tests should be conducted.

During the test period, the tunnel bound traffic from Man Hong Street slip road will be guided to route via IEC eastbound, the Sai Wan Ho/Lei King Wan area and IEC westbound to enter the EHC.

Kowloon-bound tunnel bus routes 601, 680, 690 and 691 will be routed via King's Road, Kornhill Road, Shau Kei Wan Road and Tai Hong Street to the IEC westbound and then enter the EHC.

Traffic cones will be placed between the slow lane and the middle lane of eastbound IEC from the junction with Man Hong Street slip road to the approach to the EHC to prohibit weaving between the two lanes. Appropriate temporary traffic signs and overhead gantry signs indicating "Diversion" will be put up to guide motorists.

Traffic police will standby at the major road junctions in Lei King Wan area and will assist to direct motorists when necessary. Survey teams of Transport Department will carry out traffic surveys during the test period.

Upon completion of the pilot test at 10 pm, the traffic cones will be removed and the temporary traffic signs will be covered up. All temporary traffic diversion arrangements will be reintroduced if it is decided to conduct further pilot tests.

The spokesman said the pilot test would enable the Transport Department to carry out traffic surveys to assess the overall traffic implications of the proposed traffic management scheme.

Information collected will be analysed to finalise the appropriate scheme for consultation with members of the Eastern District Board prior to its implementation.

He pointed out that at present, traffic congestion was observed during evening peak hours at the eastbound carriageway of IEC near the approach to the EHC.

"The congestion problem is mainly because of the capacity of the EHC being reached during peak hours. When this happens, traffic queues inevitably build up from the tunnel portal and extend onto the carriageway of the IEC.

"Traffic from Man Hong Street slip road also have to wait on the IEC to merge into the tunnel bound traffic queue, thus creating blockage to the eastbound through traffic along the IEC," he said.

The traffic management scheme under consideration aims to eliminate the merging conflict by prohibiting all vehicles, except buses, from Man Hong Street slip road to merge into the middle lane to head for the EHC during peak hours..

The proposed scheme involves substantial amount of modification works and it is most desirable to carry out this pilot test to evaluate the improvements to the through traffic movement as well as the impact in the vicinity areas' traffic to provide the necessary justification for implementing the proposed scheme.

The spokesman urged motorists to drive with care particularly along the affected section of the eastbound carriageway of the IEC.

EHC bound traffic from Man Hong Street slip road should observe the diversion arrangement and follow the direction of the "Diversion" sign for the alternative route to the EHC.

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Second issue of "COMAC News" published

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The following is issued on behalf of the Office of the Commissioner for Administrative Complaints:

The Office of the Commissioner for Administrative Complaints today (Monday) held a press conference to release details of the latest issue of its monthly publication "COMAC News".

During the press conference, the Acting Commissioner for Administrative Complaints, Miss Sarah WU, briefed members of the press on a summary of an anonymised investigation report.

Based on the number of enquiries (1,234) and written complaints (449) received for the five-month period from July to November this year, it is projected that the yearly total will be 2,962 and 1,078 respectively.

In comparison with last year's total of 1,054 and 173, this projection represents a three-fold increase in the number of enquiries and a six-fold increase in the number of written complaints received.

The next issue of "COMAC News" will be published on January 5 next year.

Note to editors:

For press enquiries, please contact Senior Executive Officer (Administration and Community Relations), Miss Anna Chan, on Tel 805 7015.

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Seminar on automation for ED staff

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The Deputy Director of Education, Miss Elaine Chung, assured that automation would ultimately improve the department's services to the community and make its work more interesting.

Speaking at the opening of a seminar for senior staff of the department today (Monday), Miss Chung said: "Having had personal experience in successfully implementing computer system in other departments, I can assure you that automation will ultimately improve our services to the community and make our work more interesting."

"But I do understand how some staff could feel threatened by changes to their work place and daily routines. In this regard, directorate officers have a special role to play in leading their division forward and counselling their staff who may have difficulties adjusting to change," Miss Chung said.

The seminar - divided into three sessions - is organised for about 120 heads of divisions and sections as well as principals of Government secondary and primary schools.

The seminar is aimed to help senior and middle managers of the department to understand the organisational behaviour during such changes and, more importantly, to enable them to counsel and support their subordinates who may be apprehensive in the face of changes.

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AFD staff urged to keep up good efforts

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The Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, Dr Lawrence Lee, has urged his staff to keep up their good efforts so as to make the department highly efficient.

Dr Lee made the appeal when addressing the Agriculture and Fisheries Department's (AFD) annual presentation ceremony held at its headquarters this (Monday) morning.

He hoped all AFD colleagues would continue their good work to achieve the goal of making greater development in the various objectives of the department.

At today's ceremony, Dr Lee presented awards to outstanding staff who had done well in the department's performance pledge competition.

The best performance pledge award went to the Livestock Regulatory Section, whereas the Fauna Conservation Section and the Plant and Pesticide Regulatory Section emerged as first and second runners-up in the competition.

Dr Lee also presented long and meritorious service certificates to 136 AFD staff who had among themselves chalked up a total of 2,380 years of service. Of them, 17 had each served 30 years.

While commending the recipients for their hard work, long and loyal service, he hoped other incumbent staff members to follow their good examples with a view to continuing serving the community.

The Director also presented souvenirs to 18 former colleagues who had retired from the Civil Service recently.

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Speedpost service extends to three countries

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The Postmaster General, Mr Mike Pagliari, announced today (Monday) that reciprocal Speedpost service would be extended to Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam and the Czech Republic from December 12.

This will bring the total number of overseas destinations served by Speedpost to 70.

The service will be available to Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan, the municipal areas of Brunei and the whole of Czech Republic.

Speedpost service is a fast and reliable service for sending documents, samples and merchandise. Speedpost items are accepted at 37 strategically located post offices. Customers who regularly send Speedpost items may apply for the Post Office pick-up service.

"Speed and convenience are key features of the Post Office Speedpost service but they are not the only reasons for choosing Speedpost," Mr Pagliari said.

"Many customers also find the customs procedures simple and trouble-free.

"With its Speedpost service, the Hong Kong Post Office offers the widest range of destinations with prices and delivery standards which compare very favourably with those offered by our competitors," he said.

Enquiries about the Speedpost service should be made of the Postal Services Representatives on telephone 9221 2277 (2921 2277 with effect from January 1 next year.

	Bhutan	Brunei Darussalam	Czech Republic
<u>Postage</u>			
- not over 250g	\$115	\$85	\$155
- not over 500g	\$140	\$90	\$190
- each additional 500 g	\$45	\$30	\$50
- Kilopak rate	\$175	\$110	\$230
<u>Delivery Standards</u>	Thimphu: Generally first to second working day after posting.	Bandar Seri Begawan: Next working day after posting. Kuala Belait and Tutong: Third working day after posting.	Praha: First to second working day after posting. Rest of the country: Second to third working day after posting.

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Flower logo symbolises arts development

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The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council:

Winner of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) logo design competition, Mr Bosco Yip Po-hoi, today (Monday) explained the concept behind his design of the flower which won him the top place in the competition.

Mr Yip, whose previous winning logo designs include those of the Hospital Authority and the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust, said he considered Hong Kong no longer a cultural desert.

"The concept of the logo is to use a flower to symbolise the development of the arts in Hong Kong.

"Actually arts, just like plants, can improve the quality of life in our community."

The black and red used in the logo are to enhance the sense of originality and the Orient.

"Also, the free-style flower represents the freedom of creativity of arts in the territory," he said.

Mr Yip, whose entry was selected by a panel of five adjudicators from more than 600 entries, was awarded \$15,000 and a certificate at a prize-presentation ceremony officiated by the Chairman of the HKADC, Sir Joseph Hotung, today.

Five merit prizes, each of \$3,000 and a certificate, were presented to Miss Adeline Chang Wai-man, Mr Benny Au Tak-shing, Mr Choy Fui, Miss Tracy Fung Wai-man and Mr Benjamin Wong Wai-bun.

The adjudicators were Vice-Chairman of the Hong Kong Designers Association, Mr John Au, Chairman of the Chartered Society of Designers, Mr Dennis Chan, Head of the Swire School of Design, Hong Kong Polytechnic, Dr Hazel Clark, Chairman of the HKADC Visual Arts Committee, Mr Oscar Ho and a member of HKADC, Mr Kan Tai-keung.

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Water storage figure

Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 81.7 per cent of capacity or 478.650 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 450.877 million cubic metres of water, representing 76.9 per cent of capacity.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

		Time	Cumulative Change
Opening balance in the account	1556 mn	09:30 hr	+118 mn
Closing balance in the account	1544 mn	10:00 hr	+118 mn
Change attributable to:		11:00 hr	-52 mn
Money market activity	-52 mn	12:00 hr	-52 mn
Laf today	+40 mn	15:00 hr	-52 mn
		16:00 hr	-52 mn

Laf rate 3.75% bid/5.75% offer TWI 122.0 *+0.0* 5.12.94

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills

EF notes/Hong Kong Government Bonds

Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1w	4.69	18m	2605	6.35	99.36	6.93
1m	5.16	24m	2611	6.90	99.54	7.28
3m	5.55	29m	3704	6.15	97.31	7.53
6m	5.96	35m	3710	7.25	99.06	7.76
12m	6.57	58m	5909	7.45	97.32	8.30

Total turnover of bills and bonds - 14,191 mn

Closed 5 December 1994

end/Monday, December 5, 1994