



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

Monday, February 13, 1995

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New clearance package for Tiu Keng Leng residents

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The Government has offered a special ex-gratia allowance of \$7,000 per square metre to permit-holders of structures in the Tiu Keng Leng Cottage Area in addition to the offer of public housing in order to clear the area to make way for public and private housing development.

On average, a domestic household will receive about \$288,000 as special ex-gratia allowance and a shop owner about \$727,000.

"The new rate represents an increase of 39 per cent over the previous offer made in July last year," said the Secretary for Housing, Mr Dominic S W Wong. "This is decided after a thorough review, having regard to the unique background of the Tiu Keng Leng Cottage Area."

Mr Wong indicated that "a sufficient number of public housing units have been reserved in the newly completed Hau Tak Estate nearby for eligible residents in the cottage area. Subject to the availability of flats, the Housing Department may consider residents' requests for other public rental housing units. Residents who do not take up the rehousing offer may buy flats under the Home Ownership Scheme with priority."

Eligible shop and workshop operators will be given restricted tender to bid for shops and market stalls in Housing Authority estates, or alternatively they may receive an additional allowance of \$73,000 on top of the special ex-gratia allowance and the normal ex-gratia allowance applicable to shops and workshops.

The offer also includes an increase in domestic removal allowance to a new rate ranging from \$3,410 to \$8,780 per household, depending on family size.

"The revised package is exceptional, reasonable and much improved, taking into account the special background of the cottage area and the fact that the occupants had put up at their own costs the structures which are freely assignable with the approval of the Director of Housing," said Mr Wong.

"The revised package will be the final offer, and will be subject to the Legislative Council Finance Committee's approval of the necessary funds, estimated at about \$972 million."

"The revised package will not set a precedent for other clearances. If funds are not available, the Government would have no choice but to hold back the clearance indefinitely."

If this should happen, the overall planning and progress of Phase III development of Tseung Kwan O New Town, including the provision of 12,000 public housing units there, will suffer a setback. Moreover, the living conditions in the cottage area would be adversely affected owing to reclamation works in the vicinity.

"We plan to give residents of the cottage area at least nine months notice prior to the commencement of the clearance. Essential community and public services will be maintained in the area until the clearance is completed," said Mr Wong.

Representatives of the Tiu Keng Leng Cottage Area were briefed on the revised clearance package today (Monday). The Sai Kung District Board will be briefed on February 14 and the Planning, Lands and Works Panel of the Legislative Council as soon as possible.

End/Monday, February 13, 1995

External trade figures classified by country and commodity for Dec and 1994

The Census and Statistics Department today (Monday) released detailed statistics on external trade with breakdown by country/territory and commodity for December and the whole year of 1994.

The value of re-exports continued to increase, by 11% over a year earlier to \$82.0 billion in December 1994.

Comparing December 1994 with December 1993, increases were recorded in the value of re-exports to Australia (+40%), Canada (+25%), Japan (+24%), Singapore (+20%), the United States (+11%), Taiwan (+10%) and China (+8.1%). However, the value of re-exports to South Korea, Germany and the United Kingdom decreased by 7.1%, 6.6% and 0.1% respectively.

The changes in the value of Hong Kong's re-exports to the 10 main destinations are shown in Table 1.

The value of re-exports for the whole year of 1994 was \$947.9 billion, 15% higher than that in the year 1993.

Comparing 1994 with 1993, the value of re-exports to all of the main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes: Japan (+24%), Australia (+21%), Singapore (+19%), China (+18%), the United States (+16%), Canada (+12%), the United Kingdom (+11%), South Korea (+6.1%), Taiwan (+2.3%) and Germany (+2.0%).

Table 2 shows the changes in the value of re-exports of the 10 principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the year 1994 with the year 1993, increases of various magnitudes were recorded in the value of re-exports of most principal commodity divisions.

More notable increases were registered for telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$25.5 billion or 34%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$15.2 billion or 14%); electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$14.6 billion or 21%); textiles (by \$11.6 billion or 16%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$8.3 billion or 29%); and footwear (by \$6.0 billion or 13%).

Over the same period, a decrease in the value of re-exports was recorded for road vehicles (by \$3.1 billion or 9.6%).

The value of domestic exports in December 1994, at \$20.1 billion, fell by 2.2% over a year earlier.

Comparing December 1994 with December 1993, decreases were recorded in the value of domestic exports to Taiwan (-14%), China (-11%), the United States (-7.6%), Germany (-2.5%) and Singapore (-0.5%). However, the value of domestic exports to the Philippines, Japan, the Netherlands, Canada and the United Kingdom increased by 36%, 33%, 14%, 1.0% and 0.5% respectively.

The changes in the value of domestic exports to the 10 main destinations are shown in Table 3.

Comparing the year 1994 with the year 1993, decreases were recorded in the value of domestic exports to Canada (-12%), Germany (-8.3%), the United Kingdom (-4.4%), China (-3.7%) and Taiwan (-3.0%).

However, the value of domestic exports to the Philippines increased significantly by 29%. That to Japan, Singapore, the Netherlands and the United States increased by 8.0%, 7.8%, 5.6% and 1.9% respectively.

Taking all destinations together, the value of domestic exports in 1994, at \$222.1 billion, decreased marginally by 0.4% over 1993. This represented an improvement from the corresponding decline of 5% in 1993.

Table 4 shows the changes in the value of domestic exports of the 10 principal commodity divisions:

Comparing the year 1994 with the year 1993, decreases in the value of domestic exports were registered for telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$1.7 billion or 12%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of jewellery, goldsmiths' and silversmiths' wares (by \$1.3 billion or 6.3%); textiles (by \$1.1 billion or 7.1%); and machinery specialised for particular industries (by \$435 million or 12%).

Over the same period, increases in the value of domestic exports were recorded for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$2.1 billion or 9.5%); and clothing (by \$1.2 billion or 1.7%).

The value of imports continued to increase significantly to \$111.6 billion in December 1994, by 16% over a year earlier.

The changes in the value of imports from the 10 main suppliers are shown in Table 5.

Comparing December 1994 with December 1993, the value of imports from most of the main suppliers showed increases of various magnitudes: Singapore (+23%), Malaysia (+23%), Taiwan (+21%), Germany (+20%), China (+16%), South Korea (+16%), Italy (+16%), Japan (+14%) and the United Kingdom (+10%).

However, the value of imports from the United States decreased marginally by 0.7%.

Comparing the year 1994 with the year 1993, the value of imports from all of the main suppliers showed increases of various magnitudes: Singapore (+30%), Italy (+27%), Malaysia (+27%), South Korea (+19%), the United Kingdom (+19%), China (+17%), Germany (+15%), Taiwan (+14%), the United States (+12%) and Japan (+9.6%).

The value of imports in the year 1994, at \$1,250.7 billion, increased markedly by 17% over the year 1993.

Table 6 shows the changes in the value of imports of the 10 principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the year 1994 with the year 1993, increases were recorded in the value of imports of all principal commodity divisions.

More notable increases were registered for telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$27.3 billion or 29%); electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$22.5 billion or 19%); textiles (by \$19.3 billion or 20%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$11.6 billion or 31%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$11.5 billion or 14%); and non-metallic mineral manufactures (by \$6.4 billion or 19%).

All the trade statistics described here are measured at current prices and no account has been taken of the changes in prices between the periods of comparison.

A separate analysis of the volume and price movements of external trade for December 1994 will be released in early March.

Detailed trade statistics analysed by commodity and by country/territory are published in trade statistics reports.

The December 1994 issue of the "Hong Kong External Trade" with detailed analyses of the performance of Hong Kong's external trade in December and the whole year 1994 will be available for sale at \$86 a copy around February 28.

The report can be purchased at the Government Publications Centre on the ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, and the Publications Section of the Census and Statistics Department on the 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries regarding regular subscription to the report may be directed to the Information Services Department at French Mission Building, 1 Battery Path, Hong Kong (telephone 2842 8802) and enquiries on trade statistics to the Census and Statistics Department (telephone 2582 4915).

TABLE 1 : RE-EXPORTS TO THE TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

| DESTINATION | DEC 1994 (HKD Mn.) | DEC 94 OVER DEC 93 (% CHANGE) | JAN-DEC 1994 (HKD Mn.) | JAN-DEC 94 OVER JAN-DEC 93 (% CHANGE) |
|----------------|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| CHINA | 28,441 | + 8.1 | 322,835 | + 17.6 |
| UNITED STATES | 16,166 | + 11.4 | 210,077 | + 16.5 |
| JAPAN | 4,677 | + 23.7 | 54,745 | + 24.0 |
| GERMANY | 3,883 | - 6.6 | 41,617 | + 2.0 |
| UNITED KINGDOM | 2,363 | - 0.1 | 27,318 | + 11.3 |
| TAIWAN | 2,022 | + 10.1 | 22,416 | + 2.3 |
| SINGAPORE | 1,885 | + 20.3 | 20,346 | + 18.7 |
| SOUTH KOREA | 1,365 | - 7.1 | 16,483 | + 6.1 |
| CANADA | 1,201 | + 24.5 | 14,199 | + 12.2 |
| AUSTRALIA | 1,223 | + 39.8 | 13,877 | + 21.5 |

TABLE 2 : RE-EXPORTS OF THE TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

| COMMODITY DIVISION | DEC 1994 (HKD Mn.) | DEC 94 OVER DEC 93 (% CHANGE) | JAN-DEC 1994 (HKD Mn.) | JAN-DEC 94 OVER JAN-DEC 93 (% CHANGE) |
|---|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS) | 9,522 | + 23.0 | 123,250 | + 14.1 |
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT | 9,641 | + 26.1 | 99,552 | + 34.4 |
| ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES | 7,466 | - 10.6 | 92,335 | + 1.9 |
| ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF | 7,811 | + 15.5 | 83,767 | + 21.2 |
| TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS | 7,180 | + 14.0 | 82,145 | + 16.4 |
| FOOTWEAR | 4,493 | + 11.8 | 53,269 | + 12.8 |
| PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS | 3,884 | + 24.3 | 41,865 | + 14.7 |
| OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES | 4,133 | + 28.8 | 37,050 | + 28.8 |
| TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS | 2,482 | + 6.4 | 30,689 | + 14.7 |
| ROAD VEHICLES | 1,296 | - 59.1 | 29,597 | - 9.6 |

TABLE 3 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

| DESTINATION | DEC 1994 (HKD Mn.) | DEC 94 OVER DEC 93 (% CHANGE) | JAN-DEC 1994 (HKD Mn.) | JAN-DEC 94 OVER JAN-DEC 93 (% CHANGE) |
|----------------|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| UNITED STATES | 5,568 | - 7.6 | 61,419 | + 1.9 |
| CHINA | 4,866 | - 10.7 | 61,009 | - 3.7 |
| GERMANY | 1,386 | - 2.5 | 12,811 | - 8.3 |
| SINGAPORE | 1,041 | - 0.5 | 12,225 | + 7.8 |
| JAPAN | 1,001 | + 33.3 | 10,455 | + 8.0 |
| UNITED KINGDOM | 1,103 | + 0.5 | 10,292 | - 4.4 |
| TAIWAN | 490 | - 14.2 | 6,076 | - 3.0 |
| NETHERLANDS | 595 | + 13.6 | 4,775 | + 5.6 |
| CANADA | 457 | + 1.0 | 4,173 | - 11.9 |
| PHILIPPINES | 258 | + 36.2 | 2,912 | + 28.6 |

TABLE 4 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

| COMMODITY DIVISION | DEC 1994 (HKD Mn.) | DEC 94 OVER DEC 93 (% CHANGE) | JAN-DEC 1994 (HKD Mn.) | JAN-DEC 94 OVER JAN-DEC 93 (% CHANGE) |
|--|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES | 7,639 | * | 73,086 | + 1.7 |
| ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF | 2,120 | - 7.3 | 24,815 | + 9.5 |
| MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES) | 1,440 | - 16.0 | 19,272 | - 6.3 |
| OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES | 1,595 | - 1.1 | 17,623 | + 2.2 |
| PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS | 1,545 | + 23.6 | 16,207 | + 1.0 |
| TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS | 1,215 | - 5.7 | 15,038 | - 7.1 |
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT | 881 | - 17.2 | 11,622 | - 12.5 |
| MANUFACTURES OF METALS | 342 | - 15.2 | 4,594 | - 1.0 |
| PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS | 325 | + 17.1 | 3,948 | + 14.7 |
| MACHINERY SPECIALIZED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES | 232 | - 21.8 | 3,153 | - 12.1 |

* DENOTES LESS THAN 0.05%

TABLE 5 : IMPORTS FROM THE TEN MAIN SUPPLIERS

| SUPPLIER | DEC 1994 (HKD Mn.) | DEC 94 OVER DEC 93 (% CHANGE) | JAN-DEC 1994 (HKD Mn.) | JAN-DEC 94 OVER JAN-DEC 93 (% CHANGE) |
|----------------|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| CHINA | 42,054 | + 16.5 | 470,876 | + 17.1 |
| JAPAN | 17,122 | + 13.9 | 195,036 | + 9.6 |
| TAIWAN | 9,852 | + 21.4 | 107,310 | + 14.2 |
| UNITED STATES | 7,722 | - 0.7 | 89,343 | + 12.5 |
| SINGAPORE | 5,742 | + 23.5 | 61,968 | + 29.5 |
| SOUTH KOREA | 4,987 | + 16.0 | 57,551 | + 19.4 |
| GERMANY | 2,579 | + 20.4 | 28,660 | + 15.0 |
| UNITED KINGDOM | 2,314 | + 10.1 | 25,405 | + 18.5 |
| ITALY | 1,902 | + 15.7 | 22,778 | + 27.4 |
| MALAYSIA | 2,010 | + 23.4 | 20,147 | + 27.1 |

TABLE 6 : IMPORTS OF THE TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

| COMMODITY DIVISION | DEC 1994 (HKD Mn.) | DEC 94 OVER DEC 93 (% CHANGE) | JAN-DEC 1994 (HKD Mn.) | JAN-DEC 94 OVER JAN-DEC 93 (% CHANGE) |
|---|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF | 13,511 | + 18.7 | 138,881 | + 19.4 |
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT | 10,825 | + 15.1 | 120,621 | + 29.2 |
| TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS | 10,367 | + 24.6 | 118,205 | + 19.5 |
| ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES | 8,251 | - 2.0 | 96,277 | + 5.4 |
| MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS) | 7,656 | + 25.5 | 90,951 | + 14.5 |
| PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS | 5,028 | + 12.6 | 54,314 | + 11.6 |
| ROAD VEHICLES | 3,866 | + 37.9 | 51,419 | + 1.9 |
| OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES | 5,093 | + 28.1 | 48,468 | + 31.3 |
| FOOTWEAR | 4,215 | + 16.6 | 47,128 | + 13.1 |
| NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES | 3,192 | + 11.0 | 39,790 | + 19.0 |

End/Monday, February 13, 1995

South East New Territories Landfill opens

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The opening of the South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill marks another important milestone in the implementation of Hong Kong's comprehensive waste disposal strategy, the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Tony Eason, said today (Monday).

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Mr Eason said Hong Kong's Waste Disposal Plan, which was devised and published in 1989, included the development of three large strategic landfills and a network of refuse transfer stations to handle and dispose of the large amount of waste produced by the community in a satisfactory manner.

He noted that two of the strategic landfills, including the SENT Landfill, had been commissioned whilst three of the eight refuse transfer stations proposed were now in operation.

"With our new facilities, we have already been able to phase out older outdated facilities, such as the Lai Chi Kok and Kennedy Town Incinerators and landfills, which could not meet today's environmental standards.

In addition to building new waste handling and disposal infrastructure, Mr Eason said: "We must also remember the motto, 'prevention is better than cure'.

"In other words, our objective must also be to minimise the amount of waste we produce; to encourage the reuse of as much waste produced as possible; and lastly to dispose of waste, the production of which cannot be avoided, in an environmentally satisfactory manner," he said.

Mr Eason noted that the Environmental Protection Department had commissioned a waste reduction study to review the existing waste generation and collection patterns and to identify measures that would reduce waste production and increase reuse and recycling.

"Whatever measures we take to reduce waste, a key factor will be the level of awareness displayed by individual waste producers, in the course of either consumption or production, towards their contribution to both the problem and solution.

"Minor efforts, such as saying 'no' to the offer of a plastic bag or deciding not to wrap an already nicely packed box of chocolates in a piece of gift paper, will all count.

"Similarly for both industry and commerce, choosing a production process that generates less waste and paying more attention to methods that help conserve resources also count," he said.

The SENT Landfill which opened today is situated in a remote area of Tseung Kwan O. It has a capacity of 39 million cubic metres and is expected to last the next 13 years.

The \$3.46 billion landfill, which will replace the Tseung Kwan O Landfill when it closes at the end of the month, provides a cost-effective and environmental-friendly facility for the disposal of waste arising from the urban areas and the Southeast New Territories.

Also present at today's opening ceremony were the Director of Environmental Protection, Dr Stuart Reed, and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of WMX Technologies Inc, Mr Dean Buntrock.

End/Monday, February 13, 1995

Efforts to tackle cancer outlined

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Cancer is the leading cause of mortality in Hong Kong, as in many parts of the world.

It accounts for nearly 30 per cent of all death cases, taking the lives of some 9,000 people each year.

This was stated by the Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok, at the opening of the 2nd EORTC International Symposium on current trends of cancer care at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre today (Monday).

Mrs Fok noted that many forms of cancer were lifestyle related.

"Given a positive correlation between smoking and lung cancer, the Government is committed to pursuing a vigorous anti-smoking policy through a combination of legislative measures and publicity campaigns," she said.

"Early screening and detection is also crucial to the recovery of patient suffering from cervical and breast cancer. Since May last year, the Department of Health has embarked on a long-term plan to establish woman health centres, providing health and education to women aged 45 and above.

"The outcome so far has been encouraging: of the 1,592 cases handled by the first centre in its first eight months of operation, 14 confirmed cases and 21 suspected cases of breast or cervical cancer have been identified. Two additional centres will be opened by 1997," she added.

In line with this philosophy, Mrs Fok said two health centres would be established this year to provide similar services for the elderly and five additional centres were expected to come on stream by 1997.

On curative treatment, the secretary told the gathering that the Hospital Authority had designated cancer as one of its priority for strategic improvement.

"The opening of a new cancer centre at Prince of Wales Hospital and the redevelopment of the Jockey Club Institute of Radiology and Oncology at Queen Elizabeth Hospital will bring together state-of-the-art technology, modern medical equipment and specialised professional staff to enhance the quality of diagnosis, treatment and research activities related to cancer," she said.

As regards after-care services, Mrs Fok said the Government was actively promoting a rehabilitation programme for chronic patients and the expansion of outreach medical care to maximise the functional capability of patients both before and after their discharge from hospitals.

She also paid tribute to the Hong Kong Cancer Fund for playing a prominent role in spearheading the development of infrastructure facilities such as patient resource centres as well as the formation of self-help groups to promote mutual assistance and sharing of experience between patients.

End/Monday, February 13, 1995

Tender for 8th issue of two-year Exchange Fund Notes

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The Hong Kong Monetary Authority announces that the tender for the eighth issue of two-year Exchange Fund Notes will be held on Monday (February 20) for settlement on Tuesday (February 21). Similar to the previous issue, an amount of HK\$500 million two-year notes will be on offer.

In addition to that, another HK\$100 million will be held as reserve by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority for supply to market makers on the secondary market.

The notes will mature on February 21, 1997 and will carry interest at the rate of 7.50 per cent per annum payable semi-annually in arrears.

Members of the public who wish to tender for the notes may do so through any of the market makers or recognised dealers on the published list which can be obtained from the Hong Kong Monetary Authority on 30th floor, 3 Garden Road, Hong Kong (or telephone 2878 8150).

Each tender must be for an amount of HK\$50,000 or integral multiples thereof.

End/Monday, February 13, 1995

Trade Department customer group looks for new ideas to improve services

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The Trade Department's Customer Liaison Group is mounting an exercise to recruit new blood in its continuing quest for new ideas to further improve the department's services for traders.

The Director-General of Trade, Mr Tony Miller, has written to the department's clients encouraging their staff to join as members of the group for the year 1995-96.

"It is our belief that customer feedback is essential for service improvements," Mr Miller tells his clients in his letter.

"The members we have in mind are employees of companies registered with the department who are directly responsible for or involved in the processing of licence and certificate applications." First set up last year, the customer liaison group serves as an additional channel of communication between the department and its customers.

Chaired by Mr Victor Cha Mou-zing, a non-official member of the Textiles Advisory Board, the group aims at soliciting members' ideas on improvements of the department's services to facilitate planning and implementation. It also serves to build up a cordial customer relationship and enhance customer's understanding of the department's operations and services.

Apart from meeting quarterly, the group organises various activities, such as workshops on origin certification, small group discussions on customer services, factory visits and tours of the department's licensing offices. Service users aged 18 and above may, with the endorsement of their employer where applicable, apply by completing a reply form and returning it to the department on or before March 25.

Completed forms may be returned either by hand at the Enquiry Counter, ground floor, Trade Department Tower, 700 Nathan Road, Kowloon, or by post to Room M08, M/F, at the same address.

Another alternative is to fax them on no. 2380 8504. Forms may be obtained from the Enquiry Counter at the Trade Department Tower.

End/Monday, February 13, 1995

Seminar on adoption of children with special needs

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The Social Welfare Department is to hold a seminar to enhance the public awareness and support of children with special needs awaiting adoption.

The one-day seminar, organised by the department's adoption unit, will be held at Marina Rooms, Excelsior Hotel, at 9 am on Friday (February 17), a spokesman for the department said today (Monday).

Some 130 participants, including adoptive parents and front-line workers in child welfare service, will attend the seminar entitled "How can we serve them?"

"The seminar will provide a valuable opportunity for experts in the adoption field to share their views and experiences," the spokesman said.

Officiating at the opening ceremony of the seminar will be the Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan.

Other speakers, including local and overseas professionals, will address the seminar on various topics including an overview of service provision for children with special needs, medical help for such children, taking care of and finding homes for them, preparation of foster and adoptive families for the care of such children and experience in adopting a child with special needs.

End/Monday, February 13, 1995

More workers prosecuted for not observing safety law

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More industrial workers were prosecuted by the Labour Department last year for failing to observe safety regulations.

Deputy Chief Factory Inspector, Mr Kan Hon-sang, said today (Monday) that the department prosecuted 13 factory workers and 13 construction workers last year.

"Compared with the prosecution of three factory workers and two construction workers in 1993, the 1994 figures have increased more than four-fold and six-fold respectively," he said.

Mr Kan emphasised that industrial safety was the responsibility of both employers and workers.

According to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance, every proprietor of an industrial undertaking has the duty to ensure the safety and health of workers employed by providing a safe system of work, safety training and instructions and suitable personal protective equipment.

"On the other hand, a worker is required to secure the safety and health of himself and of others by co-operating with his employer in the adoption of safety measures and in the proper use of personal protective equipment," he explained.

Mr Kan quoted a recent case in which a worker was fined \$750 by the court for failing to wear a safety helmet on a construction site.

"Where there is sufficient evidence to indicate that the employer has done his part in meeting the safety requirements but the worker has failed to co-operate or respond, our factory inspectors will not hesitate to prosecute the worker," he said.

He called for full co-operation between employers and workers in observing safety regulations so that industrial accidents could be avoided.

End/Monday, February 13, 1995

Water storage figure

Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 69.7 per cent of capacity or 408.208 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 393.637 million cubic metres of water, representing 67.2 per cent of capacity.

End/Monday, February 13, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

| | <u>\$ million</u> | <u>Time (hours)</u> | <u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Opening balance in the account | 1,540 | 0930 | +1,456 |
| Closing balance in the account | 1,847 | 1000 | +1,436 |
| Change attributable to : | | 1100 | +1,243 |
| Money market activity | +1,266 | 1200 | +1,276 |
| LAF today | -959 | 1500 | +1,276 |
| | | 1600 | +1,266 |

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 121.1 *-0.1* 13.2.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

| EF bills | | EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| Terms | Yield | Term | Issue | Coupon | Price | Yield |
| 1 week | 5.99 | 16 months | 2605 | 6.35 | 99.08 | 7.24 |
| 1 month | 6.20 | 22 months | 2611 | 6.90 | 99.23 | 7.50 |
| 3 months | 6.47 | 30 months | 3707 | 6.95 | 98.43 | 7.81 |
| 6 months | 6.73 | 36 months | 3801 | 8.00 | 100.38 | 8.00 |
| 12 months | 7.09 | 59 months | 5912 | 8.15 | 99.42 | 8.47 |

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$12,414 million

Closed February 13, 1995

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