



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Governor to present 1996 Policy Address

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, will present his 1996 Policy Address tomorrow (Wednesday) when he opens the 1996-97 session of the Legislative Council.

He will begin his address at 2.30 pm. The proceedings will be broadcast live on five television channels, as well as Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) channels 1, 3 and 5, Commercial Radio and Metro Plus.

Immediately after the delivery the speech, Mr Patten will give a press conference. The radio and TV stations will carry a five-minute message given by the Governor on his last Policy Address the same evening prior to his taking part in a live panel discussion on TVB-Jade between 10.45 pm and 11.45 pm.

Copies of the Governor's speech in English and Chinese will be available to members of the public from 4 pm that day at all district offices and the Government Publications Centre at ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway.

They can also be obtained from the Marketing Office of Government Information Services on the 17th Floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai. The full text will be available on the Internet's World Wide Web at <http://www.info.gov.hk>.

A Policy Address leaflet will also be available between 4 pm and 7 pm at eight Mass Transit Railway stations: Central, Causeway Bay, Tai Koo, Tsim Sha Tsui, Prince Edward, Tsuen Wan, Wong Tai Sin and Kwun Tong; and Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation's Kowloon Terminus and Kowloon Tong and Sha Tin stations.

On Thursday (October 3), the Governor will take questions from callers phoning in Radio 1 and 5's "Talkabout" and Radio 3's "Hong Kong Today" programmes from 7.45 am to 9 am. Phone-in numbers are 1872 311 for the Chinese language and 2338 8266 for the English.

In the afternoon, he will attend a special Governor's question time at the Legislative Council.

On Friday (October 4), Mr Patten will hold an open meeting with the public at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Members of the public can put questions to him on his programme initiatives.

On Sunday (October 6) evening, he will appear on a special edition of "Newslines" on ATV-World.

On October 8 (Tuesday), Mr Patten will face question from 150 secondary students in a special forum at RTHK. The recorded session will be aired on radio in the same evening and screened on RTHK's television programme "Media Watch" at 7 pm on October 10 (Thursday) on ATV-World.

Mr Patten will attend a luncheon hosted by the Hong Kong General Chambers of Commerce on October 10 to answer questions from members of the business community.

End

Glorious days with good sense and sensibilities: FS

* * * * *

The Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, said today (Monday, Washington time) that with good sense and sensibilities, Hong Kong's glorious days were yet to unfold.

Mr Tsang was hosting a luncheon in Washington for senior staff of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) and leading figures in the international financial community as part of the programme to promote the WB/IMF Annual Meetings to be held in Hong Kong next September.

He said Hong Kong's destination was a high value-added, technology-based manufacturing sector and a world class services sector, as he had put it in his first Budget speech.

He said the challenge of being the Financial Secretary at this point in time was not only to see through the transition, but to build the foundations of a stronger and more prosperous Hong Kong beyond 1997. He refused to believe that this was a "mission impossible".

Mr Tsang cited evidence in support of Hong Kong's success story.

Of the 25 high income economies classified by the World Bank, between 1985 and 1994, Hong Kong had the second fastest growth in per capita real income.

Mr Tsang also said Hong Kong had experienced uninterrupted economic growth in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over the past 35 years, and had stabilised onto a trend growth rate of about five per cent in real terms.

"Our inflation has slowed down to 6.1 per cent for the first eight months of this year. Our property market has fully recovered, with a healthy demand at the primary market, and our stock market has been one of the leading performers in 1996," he said.

"Our banking sector has had a bumper year and the Hong Kong dollar stands rock solid against a strong foreign exchange reserve and no public debt."

Turning to the political side, Mr Tsang was equally bullish.

"In the last few months, we have witnessed several major milestones in co-operation that would lead to a smoother transition through 1997," Mr Tsang said.

He quoted the agreement on the Court of Final Appeal and the smooth and constructive discussions on the 1997-98 budget as examples.

He added that protracted discussions over infrastructure development, such as the airport and the container ports had been resolved, so that the much needed expansion in communications infrastructure were continuing without delay.

"China has now clarified her monetary relations with Hong Kong post 1997, thus strengthening the interpretation and operation of the Basic Law and underlining the financial and fiscal autonomy of Hong Kong under the "one country, two systems" principle," he said.

"In my view, good sense and sensibilities from all sides have prevailed over rhetoric, and this is as it should be, in the continued development of the Hong Kong's economy, and in augmenting its position as a premier international financial centre.

"To sum up, Hong Kong's great strength is the entrepreneurship, innovation, resilience and flexibility of her people operating in an enlightened, stable and legal environment and on an unrivalled level playing field.

"There are great opportunities, as well as challenges in the years ahead through 1997."

The Governor of the People's Bank of China, Mr Dai Xianglong, also delivered a speech at the luncheon hosted by Mr Tsang.

Mr Tsang was in Washington to attend an international banking seminar organised by the Board of Governor of Federal Reserve System.

Earlier, he attended the opening ceremony of the 1996 IMF/WB Annual Meetings. He will attend a dinner hosted by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Washington with local think-tankers.

Mr Tsang will travel to Boston tomorrow (Wednesday) to attend a dinner hosted by the Dean of the Harvard University John F Kennedy School of Government and will deliver a keynote speech there.

He will be addressing the senior staff of the university and leaders from the financial and business community. Mr Tsang will depart for New York on Thursday (October 3).

End

Governor's TV and radio broadcast on Policy Address

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, will give a five-minute broadcast on the main areas of his 1996 Policy Address tomorrow (Wednesday).

The broadcast schedule is as follows:

<u>Television station</u>	<u>Time</u>
TVB (Jade)	5.46 pm
ATV (Home)	5.55 pm
TVB (Pearl)	6.55 pm
ATV (World)	6.55 pm
Wharf Cable (News-1)	6.30 pm

<u>Radio station</u>	<u>Time</u>
RTHK 1	5.30 pm
RTHK 2	6.00 pm
RTHK 3	6.00 pm

End

Road traffic noise measures study commissioned

The Environmental Protection Department today (Tuesday) commissioned a consultancy study to determine the feasibility of retrofitting barriers and covers to abate traffic noise from existing roads.

The Assistant Director of Environmental Protection, Mr Raymond Chan said: "We have had good successes in pre-empting traffic noise through the administration of the EIA process at the planning stage and we are now tackling the problems which were created prior to the EIA practice."

Government has already, through insulating schools, provided 384,000 school children with a quieter environment; 13,000 dwellings have also benefited from the Quiet Road Surface Programme.

"It is now time to look at further actual measures on the roads themselves," he said.

"This feasibility study would look into the practicability of erecting noise barriers and covers on existing road sections from an engineering, safety, public disturbance, side effects, maintenance and cost points of view.

"The results would provide information to form the basis for tackling road traffic noise problem from existing roads."

The \$3.5 million consultancy study, scheduled for completion by the end of 1998, has been awarded to Maunsell Consultants Asia Ltd.

End

Statement by Broadcasting Authority

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A spokesman for the Broadcasting Authority said today (Tuesday) that there was no need to set up an ad hoc independent committee to monitor the news broadcasts by Cable TV, following the announcement by its founding chairman to contest the SAR Chief Executive post.

"Broadcasters are well aware of their obligations under the relevant codes of practice to report the news fairly, accurately and impartially," the spokesman said.

"The Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority, which monitors television programmes on behalf of the Broadcasting Authority, will continue to carry out this task as usual."

End

Chairman to Consumer Council re-appointed

* * * * *

A government spokesman announced today (Tuesday) that the Governor has re-appointed Professor Edward Chen Kwan-yiu as Chairman of the Consumer Council for a period of one year. The appointment will come into effect on October 7.

"I am very pleased that Professor Chen has agreed to continue his service on the Council," the Governor said.

"I am particularly grateful to Professor Chen for giving so generously of his time despite his heavy commitments.

"His re-appointment will provide the continuity required for the Council to complete the remaining studies on competition, including a main study report on the overall competition environment in Hong Kong, which will play an important part in furthering the interests of consumers."

The appointment will be published in the Government Gazette on Friday (October 4).

End

Seminar to promote disabled employment

* * * * *

The disabled were given a good chance today (Tuesday) to show their working abilities at a seminar organised by the Labour Department.

The Seminar on Open Employment for People with a Disability was organised for the third year to enable employers to understand better the working abilities of the disabled and provide them with more employment opportunities.

More than 400 representatives from various organisations attended the seminar at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre during which talks were given, work demonstrations by the disabled performed, video shows and exhibitions provided.

Speaking at the opening of the seminar, the Commissioner for Labour, Miss Jacqueline Willis, said the Selective Placement Division (SPD) of the Labour Department had launched an array of promotional activities to promote open employment for people with a disability.

"These include staging exhibitions and seminars, issuing quarterly newsletters to 20,000 employers and presenting awards to commendable employers and outstanding disabled employees.

"We also work with the Radio and Television Hong Kong to produce a popular TV series 'Under the Same Sky' and a radio programme to enhance public understanding of people with a disability," Miss Willis said.

She said a set of video and handbook had been produced to introduce to employers the support services available to them in the employment of people with a disability. The support services include the Employaid Fund, Rehabus and sign language interpretation service.

In order to further promote open employment of people with a disability, SPD conducted 312 visits to employers in the private sector last year. With assistance from the Civil Service Branch, the division also made another 25 visits to major government departments.

"We have seen encouraging results and the division has achieved a record placement of 1,422 job seekers in one single year," Miss Willis said.

Another officiating guest was the Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Employment of the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, Mr Vincent Cheng.

The Chairperson of the Equal Opportunities Commission, Dr Fanny Cheung, gave a briefing on the Disability Discrimination Ordinance at the seminar.

A Principal Assistant Secretary (Civil Service), Ms Grace Lui, and the Senior Manager of Human Resources of the Hongkong Bank, Mrs Jennifer Lun, also shared with other participants their experience in working with the disabled.

Today's seminar was co-organised by the American Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, Employers' Federation of Hong Kong, the Sub-Committee on Employment of Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, Federation of Hong Kong Industries, Joint Council for the Physically and Mentally Disabled (Rehabilitation Division, Hong Kong Council of Social Service), the Hong Kong Association of Banks, the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong Hotels Association, Hong Kong Industrial Relations Association and Hong Kong Institute of Human Resource Management.

End

Two language projects awarded funding

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The acting Director of Education and Trustee of the Language Fund, Mr T F Kwan, has approved funds totalling \$2.64 million for two projects to improve language abilities in schools and in Hong Kong's workforce.

Both successful projects are English language projects.

One of them is a research project by the Hong Kong Society of Accountants to identify the written language needs of professionals in the workplace. The project also aims at developing training material for language programmes which are tailored for the needs of the business community.

The project will cost \$1.26 million over 15 months from 1996-97.

The other project is one by the Hong Kong Council of Early Childhood Education and Services for developing a curriculum package for teaching English in local kindergartens. It will cost \$1.38 million over 15 months from 1996-97.

The two projects were recommended by the former Language Fund Advisory Committee last month.

End

Roving exhibition to promote development strategies review

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Members of the public will have a chance to know more about the proposed development strategies for Hong Kong up to 2011 in a roving exhibition starting tomorrow (Wednesday).

The Territorial Development Strategy (TDS) Review 1996 exhibition will take place at 10 popular locations including eight shopping centres and two MTR stations throughout October.

It is part of a publicity programme to encourage members of the public to express their views on how the future development needs of Hong Kong can be met.

The first of the roving exhibition will be held at the Park Court, Level 1, Pacific Place, Queensway.

It will be open to the public between noon and 8 pm tomorrow and then between 10 am and 8 pm daily until Saturday (October 5). Admission is free.

The exhibition features 32 panels containing photographs, maps and charts with short descriptions to explain the recommended long-term and medium-term development strategies of the review.

Also on display will be models of major future developments comprising the Airport Railway Kowloon Station, Central and Wan Chai Reclamation, Tin Shui Wai and Tseung Kwan O new towns and Green Island Reclamation.

Visitors will be able to see a 12-minute, bilingual video introducing the various aspects of the TDS Review. They can also take home a bilingual leaflet highlighting the major development options recommended by the review.

Another smaller scale exhibition on the TDS Review 1996 will be staged concurrently at Wo Che Estate Shopping Centre in Sha Tin tomorrow until October 8. It will be open to the public from 10 am to 8 pm daily.

Eight more exhibitions will be mounted at the following dates and venues:

	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Date</u>
*	Lok Fu Shopping Centre II Wong Tai Sin	Oct 6 - 10
*	Butterfly Estate Shopping Centre Tuen Mun	Oct 9 - 15
*	Times Square Causeway Bay	Oct 11 - 17
*	Tai Wo Shopping Complex Tai Po	Oct 16 - 22
*	Metroplaza Kwai Fong	Oct 18 - 24
*	MTR Central Station Central	Oct 23 - 26
*	MTR Admiralty Station Queensway	Oct 27 - 31
*	Ocean Terminal Tsim Sha Tsui	Oct 28 - 31

The public can send their comments on the Review before the end of December to General Registry (TDS Review), Planning Department, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong, Tel 2848 6247, Fax 2877 0389.

End

By-election for education conduct council

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The Education Department today (Tuesday) encouraged Primary school teachers and school heads to vote in a by-election on Thursday (October 3) to fill two seats on the Council for Professional Conduct in Education.

Education Officer, Mr M L Lau, noted that the council is to promote the interests of the teaching profession by enhancing professional conduct and status. He urged teachers to show support for the council by exercising their voting right.

Voting will be conducted in local primary schools.

There is one nominee for each of the contested seats.

Mr Ho Kwok-suen of North Point Government Primary AM School is contesting the seat for the Government Primary Schools Category while Ms Ho Yun-ling of Hong Kong Shu Yan School is running for the Private Primary Schools Category seat.

Mr Lau said Mr Ho and Ms Ho will each need at least 500 votes on Thursday in order to be elected to the Council.

Teachers and school heads can vote for candidates of both Government Primary Schools Category and the Private Primary Schools Category.

Mr Lau said the Education Department's District Education Officers will visit more than 130 schools on Thursday to monitor voting.

Meanwhile, Mr Au Yeung Chi of Hong Kong Teachers' Association has been returned uncontested in the by-election because, unlike Mr Ho and Ms Ho, the seat he sought is in the Organisation-nominated Category and no voting is required.

End

Application for Mortgage Interest Subsidy Scheme invited

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Full time employees holding subvented posts in aided and per caput grant schools are invited to apply for assistance under the 1996-97 Mortgage Interest Subsidy Scheme (MISS).

Chief Executive Officer of the Education Department, Mr Kan Tat-sing, said today (Tuesday) that eligible staff are:

- * those receiving a monthly basic salary equivalent to Master Pay Scale Point 22 (\$24,850) or above and having a minimum of 10 years' continuous recognised service as at October 31; or
- * those receiving a monthly basic salary below Master Pay Scale Point 22 who have a minimum of 20 years' continuous recognised service as at October 31.

"Under MISS, successful applicants will receive a monthly subsidy for payment of interest on their home mortgage loan," Mr Kan said.

Circulars, application forms and relevant information leaflets have been sent to heads of schools. The closing date for submitting application forms is November 13.

Enquiries should be directly to MISS Section on 2961 7406 or 2961 7409.

End

Transfer of VMs from High Island Detention Centre

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A group of about 250 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) will be transferred from High Island Detention Centre (HIDC) to Victoria Prison (VP) today (Tuesday) in preparation for their return to Vietnam under the Orderly Repatriation Programme.

They will join another group of about 340 VMs in VP, majority of whom have voluntarily presented themselves for transfer from HIDC yesterday (September 30), for pre-flight documentation and medical checks prior to their repatriation on October 8, 15 and 23.

The transfer will be observed by independent monitors.

End

VMs transferred to Victoria Prison pending repatriation

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About 250 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) at High Island Detention Centre were transferred this (Tuesday) morning to Victoria Prison (VP) in preparation for their return to Vietnam under the Orderly Repatriation Programme.

An operation to transfer the VMs went smoothly and without incident. Most of them began packing their belongings early this morning in preparation for the transfer and by about 9.30 am all VMs were accounted for and processed.

They will join about 340 others in VP, the majority of whom had voluntarily presented themselves for transfer yesterday (Monday), for pre-flight documentation and medical checks prior to their repatriation on October 8, 15 and 23.

End

Monitors' report submitted to CS

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The monitors appointed to observe the transfer of Vietnamese migrants from High Island Detention Centre to Victoria Prison this (Tuesday) morning have submitted their report to the Chief Secretary.

The four monitors comprised two non-official Justices of the Peace, Dr Cecilia Chan Lai-wan and Mr Chao King-lin; and representatives from two non-government organisations, Mr Thierry Taveaux from Medecins Sans Frontieres and Ms Yiu Shau-hing from Caritas, Hong Kong.

End

BN(O) application for 1992 and 1995 born close in December

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The final date for Hong Kong British Dependent Territories citizens (BDTCs) born between 1992 and 1995 to apply for British National (Overseas) BN(O) passports will be December 31, a government spokesperson reminded the public today (Tuesday).

Hong Kong BDTCs (such as persons born, naturalised or registered in Hong Kong) must obtain a BN(O) passport if they wish to continue to travel on British passports beyond 1997.

As specified in the second schedule to the Hong Kong (British Nationality) Order 1986, applications for BN(O) passports must be submitted on or before the final dates relevant to their age groups.

Parents or legal guardians of eligible children born between 1992 and 1995 must submit their applications on or before December 31. They should apply for a Hong Kong permanent identity card on behalf of the children at the same time. To avoid a last minute rush, they are advised to apply early.

Hong Kong BDTCs living, working or studying abroad, are also required to observe the cut-off dates if they want to apply for a BN(O) passport. However, they are not required to return to Hong Kong for their applications.

They should submit their applications to the nearest British passport issuing office either by post or in person. The required overseas application forms can be obtained at those offices or the Hong Kong Immigration Department.

Persons who do not comply with the relevant cut-off dates will not be able to travel on British passports beyond 1997. An application made after the final date will only be accepted if the applicant can show that there are special circumstances which justify his late application.

A BN(O) Late Registration Appeals Advisory Committee has been established to advise the Governor on those late applications which have been rejected by the Immigration Department.

The spokesperson emphasised that those who already had a BN(O) passport, either the conventional hard-cover type or the burgundy red machine readable type, need not apply again.

To save time in queuing up at Immigration Offices, eligible applicants should send in their applications by post or make use of the drop-in boxes installed at the Immigration Headquarters and branch offices throughout the territory. Only persons who have lost their previous passports, or who need the passport for urgent travel should apply in person.

For more information, members of the public may telephone 2824 1177 (English) or 2824 1717 (Chinese).

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

Tender date	1 Oct 1996	1 Oct 1996
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q640	Y694
Issue date	2 Oct 1996	2 Oct 1996
Maturity date	2 Jan 1997	3 Oct 1997
Coupon	-	-
Amount applied	HK\$7,710 MN	HK\$2,610 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$1,500 MN	HK\$500 MN
Average yield accepted	5.19 PCT	5.62 PCT
Highest yield accepted	5.20 PCT	5.63 PCT
Pro rata ratio	About 24 PCT	About 60 PCT
Average tender yield	5.21 PCT	5.65 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning 7 Oct 1996

Tender date	8 Oct 1996	8 Oct 1996
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q641	H675
Issue date	9 Oct 1996	9 Oct 1996
Maturity date	8 Jan 1997	9 Apr 1997
Tenor	91 days	182 days
Amount on offer	HK\$1,500+300MN	HK\$800+160MN

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,852	0930	-691
Closing balance in the account	2,257	1000	-691
Change attributable to:		1100	-691
Money market activity	- 695	1200	-695
LAF today	+100	1500	-695
		1600	-695

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.6 *-0.1* 1.10.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/MTRC				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.06	2 years	2808	6.00	99.84	6.18
1 month	5.09	3 years	3907	6.80	100.82	6.58
3 months	5.20	5 years	5109	7.32	100.94	7.21
6 months	5.32	7 years	7308	7.24	99.08	7.55
12 months	5.61	5 years	M503	7.35	99.95	7.49

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$9,531 million

Closed October 1, 1996

End