



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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/Tenders invited



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Enhanced training programme for construction workers

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An enhanced training scheme to promote greater safety awareness among construction workers will be launched in the next two months, the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, announced today (Friday).

Addressing the opening ceremony of the Safety and Health Conference for Safety and Health Practitioners, Mr Wong said the up-graded training programme was a result of intensive discussions among Labour Department, Works Branch, Housing Authority, Hong Kong Construction Association (HKCA) and Construction Industry Training Authority (CITA) over the past months.

He said the one-day course to be run by CITA would cover training on safety drills, legislation on construction site safety, general concept on site safety, accident prevention and operation safety.

"Course participants will have to take a test and will be issued with a green card on passing the test," he said.

The green card is valid for three years. Workers will only have their cards renewed on expiry after attending a refresher course and pass the associated test.

Mr Wong noted that HKCA, which first pioneered a green card system last year, would also adopt the improved training programme to ensure that there would be a unified training scheme for workers and all of them take the same test.

He said the Housing Authority and the Works Branch had agreed in principle that all new contracts awarded for their projects should include the green card training requirement.

"In the next three years, the Housing Authority will allocate \$1.35 million to sponsor 3,000 construction workers to take part in the basic training programme.

"An additional of \$1.9 million will be earmarked for the training needs of some 1,500 specialised workers, such as those working in enclosed areas, at elevated places or outer part of buildings.

"These workers will be required to take a two-day tailor-made training course. On passing the test, workers will be issued with a silver green card.

"Since June this year, all government contracts for the public works projects stipulate that contractors must arrange their construction workers to attend the green card training course and the training cost will be funded directly from the project cost.

"The works Branch estimated that some 10,000 construction workers will receive safety training in the next two years through this Scheme. They account for about 75 per cent of the construction workers working on government projects," Mr Wong said.

He said the Works Branch also encouraged contractors who at present were not under any contractual obligations to send their workers to the training course, to take part in the Scheme voluntarily.

"The Education and Manpower Branch has in principle agreed to allocate \$3 million in this financial year to support the Scheme. We hope to provide safety training for an additional of 5,000 construction workers in the next two years," Mr Wong said.

In view that workers attending the course may lose a day's pay, Mr Wong said the Housing Authority and Works Branch would provide a subsidy of \$650 for skilled workers and \$450 for non-skilled workers to compensate for their wages foregone.

Workers who failed in the test may take a make-up test in the evening after work, they need not to take another day-time training course.

"It is estimated that the Government and the Housing authority will provide safety training to some 24,000 construction workers in the next two years through the Scheme.

"It is our plan to apply for more fund in the next financial year to expand the training programme," Mr Wong said.

At present, there are some 29,000 workers employed by private construction projects. Mr Wong said the Government in consultation with HKCA and CITA, would examine how to further promote safety training to cover all construction workers of government and private sector projects.

"It is our plan to provide safety training to almost all construction workers in the next three years," Mr Wong said.

The Conference was organised by the Labour Department and the Occupational Safety and Health Council.

End

Government to commission study on sustainable development

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The Government is to commission a consultancy study on whether and how to introduce sustainable development to Hong Kong. Sustainable development refers to development which meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Funding for the Study on Sustainable Development for the 21st Century (SUSDEV21), estimated at \$40 million, was approved by Finance Committee of the Legislative Council today (Friday).

A government spokesman said: "The study will help us develop a framework for applying the concept of sustainable development to Hong Kong. Public education and awareness strategies for promoting understanding of the concept would be important elements in the framework.

"We need to involve the community in working out a decision-making process which integrates policies, plans and programmes to achieve a balance in meeting the economic, social and environmental needs of society.

"We will consult the public during the course of the study to find out their expectations and their views on how to turn Hong Kong into a more sustainable city."

The spokesman noted that work to select the appropriate consultants will start immediately with a view to commissioning the study early next year.

Sustainable development is attracting growing awareness in the international community. SUSDEV21 was proposed in the third review of the 1989 white paper on the environment published in March. It has the support of the Environmental Affairs Panel of the Legislative Council and the Advisory Council on the Environment.

End

Useful exchange between regulators and market practitioners

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Representatives from 10 Asian central banks/regulatory bodies and market participants ended a one-day meeting held in Hong Kong today (Friday) on risk management of derivatives.

Participants agreed that regular exchange of information and views can play an important role in enhancing effective regulation of derivatives trading activities.

The Asia Derivatives Forum, the first of its kind in the region, was co-organised by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) and the International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA).

In his opening address to the Forum, HKMA's Deputy Chief Executive, Mr David Carse, said: "With the increase in derivatives activities both domestically and globally, it is important for regulators to take active steps to keep themselves up to date with market and supervisory trends and to maintain a close dialogue."

According to the Co-chairman of ISDA (Hong Kong and South East Asia), Mr Quentin Hills, the use of derivatives will gain importance as financial markets in emerging countries in the region mature.

Of the seven largest derivatives markets in the world, three are in Asia - Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong.

A survey conducted by HKMA last year shows that the volume of outstanding foreign exchange and interest rate derivative contracts in Hong Kong as at the end of April 1995 amounted to over US\$1,600 billion while the average daily turnover reached US\$74 billion.

"The Asia Derivatives Forum underscores the importance of reconciling the proper role of market supervision with market participation and risk management," said Mr Hills.

"The significance of this forum is that regulators and market practitioners are sharing their knowledge and concerns to promote common goals."

Participants of the Forum include senior regulatory officials from Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand as well as 10 representatives from ISDA who come mainly from leading banking institutions active in derivatives trading in Asia.

Among the topics discussed were client suitability and appropriateness, disclosure of derivatives activities to regulators and the public, factors affecting the development of the derivatives market and issues concerning the implementation of Basle proposals on market risk.

End

Annual report on company law reform published

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The Standing Committee on Company Law Reform (SCCLR) has submitted its 12th report, covering the year 1995, to the Governor-in-Council, a government spokesman said today (Friday).

During the year the Committee considered a wide range of issues and six of them involved proposals for amendments to the relevant legislation.

"One of the key recommendations of the SCCLR was for the statutory companies forms contained in the Companies Ordinance and related regulations to be removed from the legislation, and the Registrar of Companies empowered, within parameters laid down in the ordinance, to revise and update the forms as and when necessary.

"This will facilitate the present major exercise to produce forms that are more 'user-friendly' and in a bilingual format. This proposal has been included in the Companies (Amendment) Bill 1996 which is being considered by the Legislative Council," the spokesman said.

Another recommendation of SCCLR was to expand the application of the existing provisions on the disqualification of company directors to cover disqualification from directorships of overseas companies which carry on business in Hong Kong as well as from locally-incorporated companies.

"This has also been included in the Companies (Amendment) Bill 1996," the spokesman said.

The Committee also proposed to provide that, firstly, where the auditor of a company has resigned, notice of the resignation should be filed with the Registrar of Companies and, secondly, that the legislation should be more closely modelled on similar provisions contained in the 1985 UK Companies Act, the spokesman said.

Other issues that have also been discussed by the Committee in the past year included the importance of corporate governance to Hong Kong's standing in the business world, the proposed extension to overseas companies of the alternative remedy to winding up under section 168A of the Companies Ordinance and the definition of the term of "place of business" in respect of overseas companies.

"Some of these issues are being considered by the consultant commissioned to undertake an overall review of the Companies Ordinance. The Committee agreed to keep the overall review under close scrutiny," the spokesman said.

SCCLR is tasked to advise the Financial Secretary on necessary amendments to the Companies Ordinance, the Securities Ordinance and the Protection of Investors Ordinance.

Since its establishment in 1984, the Standing Committee has produced 12 annual reports. Of the total 63 recommendations which the Committee has made, 43 have so far been implemented and a further 11 are included in proposals for legislative amendments either being considered by the Legislative Council or being prepared for the next legislative session.

Copies of the SCCLR's Report can be obtained from the Secretary of the Standing Committee on Company Law Reform (Tel 2867 2819, Fax 2869 6817 or 2596 0585), or in person to the Companies Registry, 12th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

End

Moderate increase in number of court insolvency cases

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The Official Receiver, Mr Robin Hearder, said today (Friday) that the first half year of 1996 showed a moderate increase in the number of new court insolvencies in comparison with the same period last year.

There were 271 new compulsory company liquidation orders and 271 personal bankruptcy orders in January-June compared with the corresponding figures of 222 and 208 for the same period in 1995.

It could be seen, therefore, the total of 542 new insolvencies had increased by 26.05 per cent which was still less than 1.5 per cent of new companies incorporated and businesses registered during the same period.

The businesses mainly affected by compulsory company liquidations and bankruptcies included garment and knitting manufacturing, importers and exporters, restaurants and canteens, consumer credit, company directors giving personal guarantees, construction and engineering, electrical and electronic manufacturing as well as transportation and godown.

Petitions were filed by the Director of Legal Aid (37%), trade creditors (31%), banks and financial institutions (21%), landlords (4%), shareholders (2%), personal (1%) and others (4%).

More complicated or significant insolvencies during the first six months of this year were American Furniture Limited, Kennington Development Limited, Empire Engineering Company Limited, ICS Computer Distribution Limited and Pentad Construction Company Limited.

During this first half year, 58 summonses were issued against directors of companies in compulsory liquidation for failure to submit Statements of Affairs to the Official Receiver and to keep books and accounts of wound-up companies and 33 directors were convicted. The total amount of fines imposed by the Court was \$157,205.

Thirteen orders for disqualification of company directors were made by the Court in the first half year of 1996. The length of disqualification period ranged from one to one and a half to four years.

Twenty-five warrants of arrest were issued against uncooperative bankrupts or directors in January-June, and three warrants were implemented.

Total dividends declared by the Official Receiver during the first half year of 1996 (excluding BCCHK) amounted to \$28.9 million in 112 insolvencies, as against \$28.4 million in 126 insolvencies for the corresponding period of 1995.

There were seven schemes of arrangement/compositions approved by the courts during the first six months of 1996, as against five for the same period in the previous year.

The total number of active insolvency cases being handled by the Official Receiver's Office at the end of June 1996 was 2,666, representing 1,542 compulsory company liquidations and 1,124 personal bankruptcies.

Funds administered by the Official Receiver at the end of June 1996 (excluding funds pertaining to the BCCHK liquidations) totalled \$1,062 million compared with \$1,064 million at June 30, 1995, representing a reduction of \$2 million.

The Official Receiver also administered US\$1.8 million (US\$1.6 million at June 30, 1995) and Japanese Yen 10 million (Yen 271 million at June 30, 1995). The BCCHK funds under the Official Receiver's administration amounted to approximately \$824 million (\$1,359 million at June 30, 1995).

End

1,354 sites checked for industrial safety

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The Labour Department's special task force comprising 10 factory inspectors checked another 90 sites in the fourth week of the territory-wide special industrial safety operation. The total number of sites inspected in the past four weeks reached 1,354.

A total of 35 summonses would be issued to building contractors for breaching industrial safety laws as a result of the latest operation bringing the number of summonses to be issued under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance to 419 up to yesterday (Thursday).

The breaches detected over the fourth week related mainly to failing to provide suitable working platforms or scaffolds; failing to provide proper fencing of dangerous places; failing to ensure the use of personal protective equipment by workers and failing to provide adequate safety measures in the use of lifting appliances. These were similar to the last three weeks' findings.

A Labour Department spokesman said with effect from today (Friday), the Commissioner for Labour was empowered to issue suspension notice or improvement notice to stop immediately any operation or machinery at a construction site which might pose an imminent risk of serious injuries to workers.

"Prosecution will be initiated against the proprietor or contractor who fails to comply with the terms of the suspension notice or improvement notice," said the spokesman.

The maximum penalty for contravening a suspension notice is \$500,000 and 12 months' imprisonment, with an additional fine of \$50,000 for every day if the contravention continues.

For those who fail without reasonable excuse to observe the terms of an improvement notice, they are liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for 12 months.

End

Tasting test for Ma Wan cultured fish

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A tasting test was conducted for fish samples from the Ma Wan Culture Zone by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) today (Friday).

The test was a follow-up action by AFD to further investigate the possible impact on the Ma Wan Fish Culture Zone by the oil spill occurred on July 6.

After tasting, the majority of the invited panellists found that there was no tainting on the fish meat samples.

An AFD spokesman said four most commonly cultured fish species in Ma Wan were selected for tasting. These fish species are Brown spotted grouper, green grouper, mangrove snapper and seabream.

Some live samples of the four species were collected between July 8 and 11, several days after the spill while other samples were taken on July 17, both from the Ma Wan Fish Culture Zone.

Control samples of the same four fish species had also been collected from another fish culture zone not affected by the oil spill, he said.

The spokesman thanked the tasting test panellists who have been drawn from Ma Wan mariculturists, Federation of Hong Kong Aquaculture Association, Association of Restaurant Managers, Hong Kong Hotel Association, a media organisation and AFD.

The British expert appointed by the Hong Kong United Dockyards for the oil spill investigation, Mr Alistair Goodlad, and Dr Chiu Sein-tuck of Hong Kong Baptist University also took part in the tasting exercise.

The test was organised by AFD as part of its continued efforts to assist the affected mariculturists in the oil spill incident.

End

Activities to arouse awareness in local heritage

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A series of summer activities are being organised by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) of the Broadcasting, Culture and Sport Branch to arouse public awareness in local heritage.

These include an exhibition of 39 drawings by students on local monuments at the AMO gallery, 136 Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui. They feature both Western and Chinese historical buildings which have been drawn in various materials including acrylic, water colour, Chinese ink, poster colour and crayon.

The drawings are the winning entries of a competition held earlier as part of the territory-wide School Heritage Festival.

The exhibition will end on August 19 and admission is free. Memorandum clips and magnetic puzzles featuring historical buildings are distributed as souvenirs to visitors.

To complement the exhibition, a free drawing tour to the Royal Observatory in Tsim Sha Tsui will be organised on July 27 from 9 am to 12.30 pm. Families who wish to take part in the event should apply to AMO in person on a first-come-first-served basis. Enquiries can be made on 2721 2326.

End

Construction output for first quarter of 1996

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The gross value of construction work, in nominal terms, performed by main contractors (including general and special trade contractors) amounted to \$27.5 billion in the first quarter of 1996, according to the results of the Quarterly Survey of Construction Output released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

This represented an increase of 20.6% over the same quarter last year.

Based on the provisional estimate, the gross value of construction work, measured at constant (1990) market prices, performed in the first quarter of 1996 increased by 12.1% over the same quarter last year.

The gross value of construction work, in nominal terms, performed at public sector sites amounted to \$11.1 billion. Construction activities remained robust in the first quarter of 1996, with an increase of 40.4% in nominal terms and 31.9% when measured at constant (1990) market prices. The remarkable increase largely reflected the intensification of work on the major infrastructural projects.

The gross value of construction work, in nominal terms, performed at private sector sites totalled \$9.1 billion, an increase of 4.1% over the same quarter last year. When measured at constant (1990) market prices, it was down by 5.9%.

The gross value of construction work, in nominal terms, performed by general contractors at locations other than construction sites amounted to \$4.7 billion, 17.1% higher than in the first quarter of 1995.

When measured at constant (1990) market prices, the corresponding increase was 11.0%. Work in this category included minor new construction activities and renovation work at erected buildings and structures.

The gross value of construction activities, in nominal terms, performed by special trade contractors at locations other than construction sites, comprising mainly electrical and mechanical fitting work, totalled \$2.6 billion, 21.3% higher than in the first quarter of 1995.

When measured at constant (1990) market prices, the corresponding increase was 19.4%.

Analysed by end-use, transport projects, which covered airport construction projects, accounted for the greatest portion of the gross value of construction work performed at construction sites.

The gross value of construction work performed for these projects was \$6.5 billion, representing an increase of 46.4% over the first quarter of 1995.

Residential building projects (including commercial and residential composite buildings) represented the second largest category of construction site work. The gross value of construction work performed for these projects was \$5.9 billion. This was 23% higher than in the first quarter of 1995.

Commercial building projects constituted the third largest category of construction site work. The gross value of construction work performed for these projects totalled \$2.6 billion, 9.1% higher than in the first quarter of 1995.

Compared with the fourth quarter of 1995, the gross value of construction work, in nominal terms, performed by main contractors in the first quarter of 1996 decreased slightly by 0.8%.

The gross values of construction work at constant (1990) market prices are derived by deflating the nominal values with appropriate price indices to the price level of 1990.

Owing to the widespread sub-contracting practices in the construction industry, a construction establishment can be a main contractor for one contract and a sub-contractor for another contract at the same time.

The gross value of construction work performed by main contractors, including both general and special trade contractors, covers only those projects in which the construction establishment takes the role of a main contractor, but not projects in which it takes only the role of a sub-contractor.

However, sub-contractors' contribution to projects should have been included in the gross value of construction work performed by main contractors for whom they worked.

More detailed statistics on construction output are given in the Report on the Quarterly Survey of Construction Output, 1st Quarter 1996.

The report is now on sale at \$15 per copy at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, and at the Census and Statistics Department Publications Unit, Wanchai Tower, 19th floor, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai. Regular subscription may also be arranged.

Enquiries about the survey may be directed to the Building, Construction and Real Estate Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2805 6426.

End

Value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in May

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The value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand for local production in May 1996 decreased by 7% over a year earlier, according to the provisional results of a monthly survey released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Comparing May 1996 with May 1995, a significant increase in the value of orders was registered in the fabricated metal products industry (+25%).

On the other hand, decreases in the value of orders were recorded in the printing and publishing industry(-13%), the plastic products industry (-12%), the textiles industry (-11%), the electronic products industry (-9%), the wearing apparel industry (-5%) and the electrical products industry (-5%).

Compared with April 1996, and bearing in mind that this comparison may be affected by seasonal factors, the value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in May 1996 increased by 1%.

The monthly survey of orders-on-hand covers a sample of some 300 manufacturing firms engaging 50 or more workers.

Manufacturers' orders-on-hand refer to orders and parts of orders received earlier by manufacturers for local production which remain unfilled as at the end of the reference month.

Orders received by traders not engaged in production are included if such orders are further placed to manufacturers for production locally. However, orders placed to manufacturing firms for production in China and other places outside Hong Kong are not included in this series of orders-on-hand statistics.

A spokesman of the department said caution should be exercised in interpreting the manufacturers' orders-on-hand figures in a single month. Instead, the trend movement of the series as displayed over a wider span of time points should be looked at.

The survey report for May 1996 is now available at \$7 a copy at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, Queensway, and at the Census and Statistics Department Publications Unit, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries about the survey results may be made to the Industrial Production Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2805 6441.

The following table shows the year-on-year percentage changes in the value of orders-on-hand in different manufacturing industries.

	Percentage changes in the value of orders-on-hand in	
	April 1996 <u>over April 1995</u> (Revised)	May 1996 <u>over May 1995</u> (Provisional)
All industries covered in the survey	- 5	- 7
* Wearing apparel	- 4	- 5
* Textiles	-11	-11
* Electronic products	- 5	- 9
* Electrical products	- 1	- 5
* Fabricated metal products	+30	+25
* Plastic products	-12	-12
* Printing and publishing	- 9	-13

End

British soldiers help out in school renovation

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Soldiers from the Postal Courier Troop and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Workshops of the Hong Kong Logistic Support Regiment will provide many hands to make light work of redecorating the Christian Alliance P C Lau Memorial International School in Kowloon City this weekend.

As part of a four-year renovation project 23 soldiers and their families have volunteered to paint and decorate the school's library, science laboratory and home economics room on Saturday (July 20) and Sunday (July 21).

The idea was the brainchild of Warrant Officer Trevor Lawrence who is a member of the Christian Alliance Church, affiliated to the school.

"The lads I work with have been keen for some time to get involved with a project which would let them do something for the Hong Kong community - a way of saying 'thank you' for the time we've spent here," said Trevor.

"When my church suggested we help out with the decorating we jumped at the chance. The school has provided all the materials, we've provided the willing hands and hopefully we can finish the decorating by Sunday."

The school opened its doors in 1992 and, over the past four years, has seen its population grow to 200. However, as it operates on a non-profit making basis the school relies on help from church members, Mobile Mission Maintenance and now the "1,000-Day Regiment".

The Hong Kong Logistic Support Regiment was formed on April 8, 1994 and is known as the "1,000-Day Regiment" because of its short lifespan.

It consists of a number of sub units, including a transport squadron, a food supply troop, a postal and courier troop, an accommodation services unit and a headquarters squadron based in Osborn Barracks, Kowloon Tong.

It is unusual in that it is made up of personnel of three different nationalities - British, Chinese and Gurkhas.

End

Funding for 23 language projects approved

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The Director of Education and Trustee of the Language Fund, Mrs Helen C P Lai Yu, today (Friday) approved funds totalling \$20.55 million to 23 language improvement projects recommended by the Language Fund Advisory Committee.

Of the successful applications which aim at improving language proficiency of students, teachers and members of the public, 11 projects are Chinese language (including Putonghua), 10 are English and two are cross language.

They include research projects, learning packages and computer software development.

Among the Chinese language projects, there are two research projects on curriculum reforms and the language development of pre-school children, four on enhancing Putonghua standard, and one on the production of a television series on the correct usage of Chinese.

The English ones include proposals on the production of multi-media CD-ROMs to enhance students' language competence, a radio programme for senior secondary students and a self-study package for Chinese-medium Secondary 6 students.

There is also a proposal to develop and to converse databases on English language grammar and teaching ideas for open access on the Internet.

The two cross language projects are proposed by the Education Department. They are a feasibility study on extending extensive reading to all primary and secondary levels and a review on the workload of language teachers.

End

Works to improve water supply in Mai Po and San Tin

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The Water Supplies Department is inviting tenders for the laying of about 3.3 kilometres long fresh water mains from Wang Lok Street in Yuen Long to Kam Tin River.

The contract is one of the two mainlaying contracts to be awarded under the department's programme to lay a trunk water main along Castle Peak Road from Long Ha to Yuen Long.

With the completion of the contracts, now scheduled in early 1998, the water supply to Mai Po and San Tin areas in Yuen Long will be improved.

In the long term, the water mains built will form part of the distribution system of the proposed Ngau Tam Mei Treatment Works.

Tender forms and further particulars of the contract can be obtained from the Water Supplies Department, 44th floor, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Tender offers will close at noon on August 16.

End

Tenders invited for slope upgrading works

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The Civil Engineering Department is inviting tenders for upgrading 21 slopes and retaining walls throughout the territory under its Accelerated Landslip Preventive Measures (LPM) Programme.

The works are expected to be completed in 24 months' time.

Of these 21 slopes, five are under the maintenance of Highways Department, three with Water Supplies Department, one each with Architectural Services Department, Housing Department and Agriculture and Fisheries Department, and 10 are on unallocated government land.

Chief Geotechnical Engineer of the department's Geotechnical Engineering Office, Mr Allan Watkins, said the contract would be the eighth to be offered under the 5-year Accelerated LPM Programme which commenced in April last year.

"A total of six contracts which involve the upgrading of about 140 slopes and retaining walls will be let this year," he said.

"Under the Accelerated LPM Programme, upgrading works to government-owned man-made slopes in the 1977 Slope Catalogue will be speeded up.

"Studies of private slopes and retaining walls have also been accelerated considerably and over 300 slopes will be studied in the current fiscal year.

"A statutory notice will be served by the Buildings Department requiring owners to carry out upgrading works if a private slope or retaining wall is identified by the studies as not meeting the required standards."

Tender forms for the slope upgrading works contract and further particulars can be obtained from the office of Chief Geotechnical Engineer/Works, Geotechnical Engineering Office, LG1 floor, Civil Engineering Building, 101, Princess Margaret Road, Kowloon.

Tender offers will close at noon on August 16.

End

Tenders invited for Lung Mun Road improvement

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The Civil Engineering Department (CED) is inviting tenders for improvement works at Lung Mun Road in Tuen Mun .

The works comprise the realignment and widening of a section of Lung Mun Road fronting Tuen Mun Area 38 and the construction of associated sewage, drainage and water main laying works.

A sewage pumping station will also be designed and constructed.

Works will start in October this year for completion in 30 months.

The project has been designed and construction will be supervised by the Development and Airport Division of the Civil Engineering Office of the CED.

Forms of tender and further particulars can be obtained from the Division's Chief Engineer, second floor, Civil Engineering Building, 101 Princess Margaret Road, Ho Man Tin, Kowloon.

Tender offers will close at noon on August 16.

End

Tenders invited for works in hospitals and schools

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting prequalification tenders for the construction of an operating theatre block at Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Works include the construction of an eight-storey operating theatre block as an extension to the existing main block of the hospital, a 60-metre long basement services tunnel and associated drainage and external works.

Prequalification documents can be obtained from Chief Architect 4, Architectural Services Department , 40th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

The department is also inviting tenders for two separate contracts to carry out conversion and extension works for a total of 11 existing aided schools.

Works on both contracts will start in mid-October for completion in August 1997.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Architectural Services Department, 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices.

Tender offers for all three contracts will close at noon on August 9.

End

Tenders invited for final section of Sai Sha Road

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The Territory Development Department is inviting tenders for the construction of the final section of Sai Sha Road in Sha Tin.

The contract also covers construction of roads and drains in parts of planning Areas 86 and 90 near Shing On temporary housing area and Chung On housing estate.

A spokesman for the department said today (Friday) that the project would involve construction of about 0.24 kilometre long carriageway and two vehicular bridges forming the final section of Sai Sha Road.

"A footbridge will be built across On Chun Street linking Bayshore Towers and the future Ma On Shan Park.

"Local roads and associated footpaths, cycle tracks, drainage, waterworks and landscape works in planning areas 86 and 90 will also be constructed," the spokesman said.

Construction work will commence in September and scheduled for completion in 27 months.

Forms of tender and further particulars may be obtained from the office of the Consulting Engineers, Messrs Maunsell Consultants Asia Limited, 4 Fung Wo Lane, Wo Che, Sha Tin, New Territories.

Tenders must be clearly marked and addressed to the Chairman of the Central Tender Board. They must be placed in the Government Secretariat Tender Box, lower ground floor, Central Government Offices (East Wing), 20 Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong, before noon on August 9.

Late tenders will not be accepted.

End

Footbridges for Tuen Mun New Town

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The Territory Development Department is inviting tenders for the construction of a footbridge and a combined pedestrian and cycle bridge in Tuen Mun New Town.

A spokesman for the department said today (Friday) that the contract would involve the construction of two bridges and associated drainage and utility works.

A 80-metre long and 4.25-metre wide footbridge will be built across Lung Mun Road near San Shek Wan light rail transit stop.

Another 110-metre long and 8.6-metre wide combined pedestrian and cycle bridge will be built across the southern section of Tuen Mun nullah connecting zoning areas 16 and 18.

Construction work will start in September and scheduled for completion in 20 months.

Forms of tender and further particulars can be obtained from the office of the Consulting Engineers, Messrs Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick (HK) Ltd, 38th floor, Metroplaza Tower I, 223 Hing Fong Road, Kwai Fong, New Territories.

Tenders must be clearly marked and addressed to the Chairman of the Central Tender Board. They must be placed in the Government Secretariat Tender Box at the lift lobby on the lower ground floor of Central Government Offices (East Wing), Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong, before noon on August 9.

Late tenders will not be accepted.

End

Drainage plan for San Tin Basin gazetted

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The Drainage Authority today (Friday) gazetted a draft Drainage Authority area plan for San Tin Drainage Basin, one of the most flood prone drainage basin in the territory.

A spokesman for the Drainage Services Department said the plan delineated the extent of the "Drainage Authority area" in San Tin Drainage Basin covering San Tin, Lok Ma Chau, Mai Po and Shek Wu Wai.

"The basin covers an area of about 15 square kilometres. About 12 kilometres of watercourses within the area are being designated as main watercourses," he said.

Upon publication of the plan in the Gazette, said the spokesman, the Authority was given various powers under the Land Drainage Ordinance to execute drainage works, to enter upon private land for executing drainage works, and to exercise control on erection of structures within the main watercourses.

"These measures are aimed at reducing the threat of flooding in areas covered by the plan," the spokesman added.

Any person aggrieved by the plan may deliver a written statement of objection to the Director of Drainage Services on or before September 17.

The objector should clearly set out in the written statement the nature of and reasons for the objection, and any proposed alteration that would remove the objection.

The notice together with related plans can be seen at the following offices:

- * Drainage Services Department Headquarters,
43rd floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road,
Wan Chai;
- * Land Drainage Division, Drainage Services Department,
11th floor, Kowloon Government Offices,
405 Nathan Road, Kowloon;
- * Yuen Long District Office,
Yuen Long District Office Building,
269 Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long,
New Territories;
- * Land Registry,
28th floor, Queensway Government Offices,
66 Queensway, Hong Kong; and
- * Yuen Long New Territories Land Registry,
seventh floor, Yuen Long Government Offices,
2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long, New Territories.

End

First land auction this year

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Two lots of government land on Hong Kong Island and in the New Territories will be offered for sale at a public auction on August 14, it was gazetted today (Friday).

The auction will start at 2.30 pm in the Concert Hall of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui. It will be the first land auction to be held in the 1996-97 fiscal year.

The first lot located in Area 30, Tai Po, has an area of 21,200 square metres for private residential use.

The developer has to complete a gross floor area of not less than 10,176 square metres on or before September 30, 2001.

Covering an area of about 276 square metres, the second lot is located in Shek O Headland, Shek O. It is also earmarked for private residential use.

The developer has to complete a gross floor area of not less than 124 square metres on or before September 30, 1999.

Full particulars and conditions of sale can be obtained from the Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road; and the District Lands Offices, Kowloon, Yau Ma Tei Car Park Building, 10th floor, 250 Shanghai Street, Kowloon.

Conditions of sale will also be available at the District Lands Offices of Sha Tin, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Tsuen Wan, Sai Kung, Kwai Tsing, Tai Po, North and Islands.

End

Fresh water cut in Quarry Bay

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The fresh water supply to some premises in Quarry Bay will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Monday (July 22) to 6 am the following day for waste detection work on watermains to be carried out.

The suspension will affect Hoi Chak Street, Finnie Street, Hoi Kwong street, Hoi Hong street, Hoi Tai Street, Hoi Wan Street, Tong Chong Street, No 898 King's Road and all odd Nos premises between 943 and 979, King's Road.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,922	0930	+35
Closing balance in the account	1,828	1000	+35
Change attributable to :		1100	+35
Money market activity	+36	1200	+36
LAF today	-130	1500	+36
		1600	+36

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.1 *+0.0* 19.7.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.06	2 years	2805	6.30	100.15	6.30
1 month	5.09	3 years	3904	6.30	99.29	6.69
3 months	5.24	5 years	5106	7.23	100.06	7.34
6 months	5.44	7 years	7305	7.60	100.43	7.66
12 months	5.84	5 years	M502	7.30	99.66	7.53

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$9,196 million

Closed July 19, 1996

End