



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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To build upon HK's advantages: Financial Secretary

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The Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, tonight (Friday) urged professionals and businessmen to build upon Hong Kong's advantages so as to ensure that its successes of the past are equalled or surpassed in the future.

Speaking at the annual dinner of the Hong Kong Society of Accountants, Mr Tsang said Hong Kong must build strenuously upon its point of vantage by keeping abreast of latest technical, professional, and legislative developments in global trade and finance.

"For our part, we in the Government must seek to strike a balance between the degree of prudential regulation necessary to ensure the continued reliability and high reputation of our goods and services, and the degree of freedom necessary to ensure that our markets remain vigorously innovative and competitive," he said.

"There is much we can do to update and streamline our companies, banking and securities legislation; to provide administrative support for the development of new and improved market services; and to assist private initiative through public expenditure on the infrastructural requirements expected of one of the world's leading financial services centres.

"In particular, the mandatory provident fund system will give a great shot in the arm when it is established in 1997," he added.

Referring to recent comments on Hong Kong's competitiveness, Mr Tsang said he would carefully examine them, be it praise or criticism.

"This Administration always tries to be self-critical and forward looking.

"But I do take so-called surveys with a big pinch of salt if they put Hong Kong on a roller-coaster ride, ranking us first in one year, telling us we are dead within months, and in the next year, rallying us to sixth place, when external circumstances have scarcely changed," he said.

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Government's response to NCNA's comment on BOR

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In response to press enquiries on NCNA's commentary on the Bills of Right, a government spokesman makes the following response:

"Our position on the matter is clear and consistent. The Joint Declaration and the Basic Law stipulate that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) should continue to apply to Hong Kong after 1997. The Bill of Rights (BOR) Ordinance is to provide for the incorporation into the law of Hong Kong the provisions of the ICCPR as applied to Hong Kong.

"The BOR Ordinance itself and all subsequent amendments made to other Ordinances are entirely consistent with the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law that the ICCPR should continue to apply to Hong Kong.

"We have already raised this with the Chinese side of JLG. We will continue to pursue the matter through official channels."

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Licences of ATV and TVB renewed with new conditions

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The Governor-in-Council has decided to renew the remaining term of the current licences of Asian Television Ltd (ATV) and Television Broadcasts Ltd (TVB) and ordered that the renewed licences should take effect on December 1, which is the seventh anniversary of the grant of the two licences.

At the same time, the Broadcasting Authority's (BA) recommendations arising from the mid-term review of the licence of Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Co Ltd (Commercial Radio) have also been endorsed by the Governor-in-Council.

Commenting on the changes to the ATV and TVB licences, a spokesman for the Recreation and Culture Branch said today (Friday): "The renewed licences include, among other things, a new clause on free competition and a new requirement on the licensee to broadcast a minimum of 30 minutes per week of arts and cultural programmes on the Chinese channels.

"And in line with government policy, the licence fees payable will be charged on a full-cost recovery basis.

"As regards changes to the codes of practice relating to programme and advertising standards, BA already made and implemented quite a number in the past year. Another change which will take effect on December 11, 1995, will require labelling of television programmes to better inform viewers."

Under the new Code, the stations have to classify programmes not suitable for children into two categories - "Parental Guidance Recommended" or "Mature" - and advertise them before and during the transmission by superimposing the appropriate labels on the screen.

BA hopes that such information will help parents exercise guidance over their children's viewing.

On the mid-term review of the Commercial Radio licence, the spokesman said BA's recommendations had taken into account people's listening habits as revealed by the survey it conducted earlier in the year, as well as opinions expressed at two public hearings and elsewhere, and the submissions of the licensee.

"As a result, BA recommended that Commercial Radio should be required to broadcast programming aimed specifically at both young people and senior citizens, and to boost arts and cultural programming on the two Chinese language services.

"This was a response to views expressed at the public hearings organised by BA as part of the review process," the spokesman said.

Two new conditions will also be introduced to the licence of Commercial Radio on grounds of public interest.

The first is intended to promote free competition by prohibiting the licensee from entering into any arrangement or agreement which will have the effect of restricting competition by other persons in relation to the establishment or operation of a broadcasting or telecommunications service.

The second is the introduction of a full-cost recovery licence fee.

These two conditions have been incorporated in the licences of ATV and TVB and will be extended to all the other licences in due course.

An executive summary of BA's mid-term review report can be obtained at the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority's office, 39th floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Hong Kong.

The spokesman said the renewed licences of ATV and TVB would take effect on December 1 and would run for the remaining term of the licences, expiring on November 30, 2000.

As for the licence of Commercial Radio, the intention is to have the amended licence drafted and submitted to the Governor-in-Council around mid-1996, he added.

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#### No change in timetable for Supplementary Labour Scheme

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The Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong today (Friday) stressed that it was the Government's proposal to implement the proposed Supplementary Labour Scheme (SLS) in January 1996 as stated by the Governor in his Policy Address.

Mr Wong was refuting an English newspaper report published today which suggested that the Government might freeze the SLS in view of some Legislative Councillors' stated intention to table Private Member's Bills.

"We are discussing the SLS with various sectors of the community and the feedback from the community at large is encouraging," Mr Wong said.

He pointed out that the Administration was listening to views from members of the Legislative Council, labour groups and the public.

"We have been discussing the matter with the Labour Advisory Board. We are working out the monitoring details and aim to discuss with the Board again," Mr Wong said.

He reiterated that the Government's goal was to put in place a system whereby a limited number of foreign workers could be employed to fill vacancies where it was proved that these posts could not be filled locally.

"This is necessary to maintain the competitiveness of Hong Kong's open and flexible economy," he said.

End/Friday, October 27, 1995

Incentive award for production of Chinese-medium textbooks

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The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council today (Friday) approved a commitment of \$54.4 million for the Chinese Textbooks Committee to implement phase IV of the Incentive Award Scheme to produce 16 sets of quality Chinese-medium textbooks and reference books for secondary schools.

Under the Incentive Award Scheme on the production of Chinese-medium textbooks and reference books in selected subjects for secondary schools, publishers will receive a financial award when their books are found to be suitable for use at the relevant levels in the secondary schools.

The award will vary in amount depending upon the number of pages of each set of books to cover the entire syllabus of each subject.

The Chinese-medium textbooks for seven selected S1-5 subjects are Retail Merchandising for S1-3, Engineering Science, Human Biology, Economics and Public Affairs, Government and Public Affairs, Social Studies and Design and Technology for S4-5.

Chinese-medium reference books to be produced will be those on the nine selected sixth-form subjects. They are Art and Design, Biology, Business Studies, Engineering Science, Pure Mathematics, Government and Public Affairs, Chemistry and Applied Mathematics for Advanced Level and Mathematics and Statistics for Advanced Supplementary Level.

The books produced should be available for use in schools on or before September 1, 1998 to meet the needs of the schools adopting Chinese as the medium of instruction for the secondary and sixth form courses.

Textbooks for S1-5 will be reviewed and assessed by the Textbooks Reviewing Panel of the Education Department comprising officers from the Curriculum Development Institute and practising teachers on voluntary basis while the sixth-form reference books by an independent reviewing panel with lecturers from tertiary institutions and experienced sixth-form teachers.

Publishers joining the incentive award scheme are required to sign an undertaking and to pay a \$50,000 deposit with the Government to guarantee that the books are produced in accordance with the schedule of the Chinese Textbooks Committee.

Meanwhile, the Education Department will invite members of the three educational publishers associations and independent publishers to participate in the scheme.

The Chairman of the Chinese Textbooks Committee, Mr Szeto Wah and Vice-chairman, Mr Chan Ting-lap will meet the publishers and explain details of the scheme at Rooms 105-106, Hong Kong Teachers' Centre, 4 Pak Fuk Road, North Point, at 2.30 pm on November 6, 1995.

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HKMA now a member of SEANZA

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The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) today (Friday) became a member of the South East Asia, New Zealand, Australia (SEANZA), a regional central bank forum.

The application of HKMA to become a member was approved unanimously by the SEANZA Council of Governors at its meeting in Beijing today.

"As a relative newcomer to the central banking fraternity, we are keen to develop co-operation with central banks in the region," said the Chief Executive of HKMA, Mr Joseph Yam, in his address to the Council of Governors.

"We look forward to making use of this forum to exchange views and enhance co-operation with all other members on matters of common interest."

SEANZA started its activities in 1956 and now has 18 members comprising central banks and monetary authorities from Australia, Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

It provides a forum for exchange among central banks in the region. Members of SEANZA alternate in hosting a Central Banking Course once every two years that provides intensive training to central bank officials in the region.

The SEANZA Council of Governors' meetings are attended by senior central bank officials to exchange views on economic development and various aspects of regional co-operation.

End/Friday, October 27, 1995

Two Chinese banks granted licence to do business

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A government spokesman said today (Friday) that the Agricultural Bank of China (ABC) and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) had each been granted a banking licence to conduct business in Hong Kong.

ABC, one of the four specialised banks in China, is the fourth largest bank in China in terms of assets after the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the Bank of China and the People's Construction Bank of China.

It ranked 52nd in the world in terms of assets and 60th in terms of capital in 1994. It operates more than 58,000 branches and sub-branches throughout China and has over 530,000 employees.

Internationally, ABC has a branch in Singapore which was opened in July, and three representative offices in Hong Kong, London and Tokyo.

ICBC is the largest bank in China in terms of assets. It ranked 16th in the world in terms of assets and 23rd in terms of capital in 1994. It operates more than 25,000 branches and sub-branches throughout China and has over 600,000 employees.

Internationally, it has two branches, one in Singapore, which was opened in March 1992, and the other in Alma Ata, the capital city of Kazakhstan in the Commonwealth of Independent States, which was opened in October 1993.

It also has three representative offices in Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo.

ABC and ICBC have each established a representative office in Hong Kong since March and June last year respectively.

They wish to upgrade their representative offices to full licensed banks to provide more comprehensive services to their customers and to take advantage of the business opportunities in the region.

The spokesman said after granting of the licences to ABC and ICBC, the total number of banking licences granted this year was eight.

He added that the establishment of major Chinese banks in Hong Kong and vice versa would help boost the economy of both sides and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre.

After the grant of the two licences, there are 185 licensed banks in Hong Kong, of which 154 are incorporated outside the territory.

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External trade figures for September released

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Re-exports continued to register a significant growth in September 1995 over a year earlier. Domestic exports also returned to a positive increase after a small decline in August. The growth in imports remained strong.

These are shown in the external trade figures for September released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

The value of total exports (comprising re-exports and domestic exports) increased by \$18.6 billion or 17% over a year earlier to \$126.6 billion in September 1995. Within total exports, the value of re-exports, at \$105.5 billion in September, was \$17.4 billion or 20% higher. The value of domestic exports, at \$21.1 billion in September, increased by \$1.2 billion or 6.2%.

Meanwhile, the value of imports increased by \$17.4 billion or 15% to \$131.0 billion.

The visible trade deficit continued to narrow for the fifth consecutive month. In September 1995, the visible trade deficit narrowed significantly further to \$4.3 billion, equivalent to only 3.3% of the value of imports. This compared with the corresponding figures of \$10.1 billion or 7.7% in August, and \$5.6 billion or 4.9% in September last year.

In the first nine months of 1995, the value of total exports grew by 17% over the same period last year. Amongst this, the value of re-exports rose by 19%, while that of domestic exports increased by 7.3%. The value of imports showed an increase of 22%. Over the same period, a visible trade deficit of \$114.0 billion, equivalent to 10% of the value of imports, was recorded.

Commenting on the latest trade figures, a government spokesman noted that the visible trade deficit continued to narrow for the fifth consecutive month. In terms of value, the deficit has come down by 80%, from \$21.3 billion in April to only \$4.3 billion in September.

The spokesman also noted that the growth in re-exports remained robust, while domestic exports resumed a positive growth following a slight decrease in August. Meanwhile, the growth rate in value terms of retained imports slowed down to 7.2% in September 1995 over a year earlier. This contributed in large measure to the narrowing of the visible trade deficit. But for the first nine months of 1995, there was still an increase of 27% over a year earlier.

The table below presents the external trade figures in September 1995.

A more detailed analysis of Hong Kong's external trade for September 1995, by commodity and country, will be released in mid-November 1995. Note to Editors:

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	1995	1994	% Change
Total Exports	1,000,000	950,000	5.3%
Domestic Exports	100,000	120,000	-16.7%
Re-exports	900,000	830,000	8.3%
Total Imports	1,200,000	1,100,000	9.1%
Domestic Imports	100,000	100,000	0.0%
Retained Imports	1,100,000	1,000,000	10.0%
Trade Balance	-200,000	-150,000	33.3%

EXTERNAL TRADE FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER 1995

MERCHANDISE: Domestic Exports :	\$21,123 million
Re-exports :	\$105,502 million
Total Exports :	\$126,625 million
Imports :	\$130,951 million
Trade balance :	-\$4,326 million

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Latest 3 months	Jul 95 to	Jul 94 to	Change	
	Sep 95	Sep 94	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	63,802	61,430	+2,372	+3.9
(% of Total Exports)	(17.2%)	(19.1%)		
Re-exports	306,224	259,498	+46,727	+18.0
Total Exports	370,027	320,928	+49,098	+15.3
Imports	395,914	333,018	+62,896	+18.9
Trade balance	-25,887	-12,090	-13,797	

Same month last year	September	September	Change	
	1995	1994	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	21,123	19,892	+1,231	+6.2
(% of Total Exports)	(16.7%)	(18.4%)		
Re-exports	105,502	88,105	+17,397	+19.7
Total Exports	126,625	107,996	+18,628	+17.2
Imports	130,951	113,563	+17,388	+15.3
Trade balance	-4,326	-5,567	+1,241	

Last month	September	August	Change	
	1995	1995	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	21,123	20,543	+580	+2.8
(% of Total Exports)	(16.7%)	(17.0%)		
Re-exports	105,502	100,605	+4,897	+4.9
Total Exports	126,625	121,148	+5,477	+4.5
Imports	130,951	131,207	-257	-0.2
Trade balance	-4,326	-10,059	+5,734	

Calendar year to-date	Jan-Sep	Jan-Sep	Change	
	1995	1994	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	171,874	160,174	+11,701	+7.3
(% of Total Exports)	(17.3%)	(18.9%)		
Re-exports	821,377	687,783	+133,594	+19.4
Total Exports	993,251	847,957	+145,294	+17.1
Imports	1,107,270	905,881	+201,389	+22.2
Trade balance	-114,019	-57,925	-56,094	

Last 12 months	Oct 94 to	Oct 93 to	Change	
	Sep 95	Sep 94	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	233,793	219,566	+14,227	+6.5
(% of Total Exports)	(17.8%)	(19.4%)		
Re-exports	1,081,515	910,613	+170,902	+18.8
Total Exports	1,315,308	1,130,179	+185,129	+16.4
Imports	1,452,097	1,187,973	+264,124	+22.2
Trade balance	-136,790	-57,794	-78,996	

27 October 1995  
CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

Statistics on ocean vessel and seaborne cargo

\* \* \* \* \*

In the second quarter of 1995, 10,582 ocean vessels with a total capacity of 43.4 million net registered tons (being a unit of measure in volume terms of the space of a vessel available for carrying passengers or goods: one net registered ton equals 100 cubic feet) arrived at Hong Kong.

This information is contained in the report entitled Hong Kong Shipping Statistics, April - June 1995 published today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

The figures reflected an increase of 14% in number of vessels and 5% in capacity over the second quarter of 1994.

During the same period, there were 10,627 outgoing ocean vessels with a total capacity of 43.6 million net registered tons, representing an increase of 13% in number and 7% in capacity over the second quarter of 1994.

In the second quarter of 1995, the total tonnage of seaborne inward cargo comprising seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment was estimated to be 23.8 million tonnes, representing an increase of 14% over the same quarter in 1994.

During the same period, the total tonnage of seaborne outward cargo comprising seaborne exports (domestic exports plus re-exports) and seaborne outward transshipment was estimated to be 10.4 million tonnes, representing an increase of 20%.

Of the seaborne inward cargo, 82% in terms of tonnage were seaborne imports and 18% were seaborne inward transshipment. 53% of these cargoes were containerised.

Of the seaborne outward cargo, 57% in terms of tonnage were seaborne exports (domestic exports plus re-exports) and 43% were seaborne outward transshipment. 88% of them were containerised cargo.

The above statistics are summarised in Table 1.

In the second quarter of 1995, the top five countries of loading for seaborne inward cargo (comprising seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment) were Singapore (which accounted for 16% in tonnage terms), China (13%), Japan (13%), Taiwan (9%) and the USA (9%).

The top five countries of discharge for seaborne outward cargo (comprising seaborne exports and seaborne outward transshipment) were China (22%), the USA (20%), Taiwan (8%), Japan (5%) and the Netherlands (4%).

The top five principal commodities of seaborne inward cargo in tonnage terms include petroleum, petroleum products and related materials (17%); coal, coke and briquettes (15%); artificial resins and plastic materials (8%); iron and steel (6%); and other manufactured goods classified chiefly by material (6%).

The top five principal commodities of seaborne outward cargo in tonnage terms include machinery (11%); other manufactured goods classified chiefly by material (10%); other manufactured articles (8%); petroleum, petroleum products and related materials (5%); and toys (5%).

The distribution of the top ten countries of loading and discharge and their changes in the tonnage of seaborne inward and outward cargo between the second quarter of 1995 and the second quarter of 1994 are shown in Table 2 and Table 3.

Similar statistics for seaborne inward and outward cargo analysed by the top ten principal commodities are shown in Table 4 and Table 5.

Ocean vessel statistics are compiled primarily from general declarations submitted to the Marine Department by ship masters or authorised shipping agents and cover all ocean vessels entering and leaving Hong Kong, excluding yachts and pleasure craft.

Seaborne cargo statistics are compiled from a sample of consignments listed in the ocean cargo manifests supplied by shipping companies or agents to the Census and Statistics Department. The sampling method is described in the Explanatory Notes of the report.

More details of ocean vessel and seaborne cargo statistics for the second quarter of 1995 are contained in the report entitled Hong Kong Shipping Statistics, April - June 1995. This report is now published in bilingual form.

The report is now on sale at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, and the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department on 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai at \$65 a copy.

Enquiries on statistics contained in the report may be directed to the Shipping and Cargo Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2582 4887.

**Table 1: Summary of ocean vessel and seaborne cargo statistics**

	2nd quarter <u>1995</u>	% change over 2nd quarter <u>1994</u>
<b>Incoming ocean vessel</b>		
Number	10 582	+14
Capacity (Mn. net registered tons)	43.4	+5
Seaborne inward cargo (Mn. tonnes)	23.8 (53)	+14
Seaborne imports (Mn. tonnes)	19.5 (43)	+15
Seaborne inward transshipment (Mn. tonnes)	4.3 (96)	+10
<b>Outgoing ocean vessel</b>		
Number	10 627	+13
Capacity (Mn. net registered tons)	43.6	+7
Seaborne outward cargo (Mn. tonnes)	10.4 (88)	+20
Seaborne exports (Mn. tonnes) (domestic exports plus re-exports)	6.0 (80)	+12
Seaborne outward transshipment (Mn. tonnes)	4.4 (99)	+32

Note: Figures in brackets denote the extent of containerization in percentage.

**Table 2: Seaborne inward cargo<sup>(1)</sup> by top ten countries of loading**

<u>Country of loading</u>	2nd quarter	<u>% share<sup>(2)</sup></u>	<u>% change over</u>
	<u>1995</u>		<u>2nd quarter 1994</u>
	( '000 tonnes)		
Singapore	3 698	16	-2
China	3 033	13	+21
Japan	2 999	13	+10
Taiwan	2 240	9	+13
U.S.A.	2 206	9	+33
Republic of Korea	1 515	6	+25
Australia	1 188	5	+9
Indonesia	1 179	5	+179
Republic of South Africa	1 051	4	+7
Malaysia	533	2	+130

Notes: (1) Seaborne inward cargo comprises seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment.

(2) % share is the share in tonnage terms with respect to the total tonnage of seaborne inward cargo.

**Table 3: Seaborne outward cargo <sup>(1)</sup> by top ten countries of discharge**

<u>Country of discharge</u>	<u>2nd quarter</u>		<u>% change over</u>
	<u>1995</u>	<u>% share<sup>(2)</sup></u>	<u>2nd quarter 1994</u>
	( '000 tonnes)		
China	2 309	22	+21
U.S.A.	2 057	20	+19
Taiwan	791	8	+9
Japan	479	5	+39
Netherlands	451	4	+14
Federal Republic of Germany	445	4	+24
Singapore	418	4	+31
Philippines	344	3	*
United Kingdom	302	3	+30
Thailand	251	2	+2

Notes: (1) Seaborne outward cargo comprises seaborne exports (domestic exports plus re-exports) and seaborne outward transshipment.

(2) % share is the share in tonnage terms with respect to the total tonnage of seaborne outward cargo.

(3) \* less than 0.5%.

**Table 4: Seaborne inward cargo<sup>(1)</sup> by top ten principal commodities**

<u>Commodity group</u>	<u>2nd quarter</u>		<u>% change over</u>
	<u>1995</u>	<u>% share<sup>(2)</sup></u>	<u>2nd quarter 1994</u>
	<u>('000 tonnes)</u>		
Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	4 032	17	+7
Coal, coke and briquettes	3 487	15	+50
Artificial resins and plastic materials	1 892	8	+11
Iron and steel	1 531	6	-33
Other manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1 378	6	+65
Paper and paper products	1 263	5	+9
Machinery	1 000	4	-7
Cement and cement clinker	830	3	-11
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	699	3	+10
Stone, sand and gravel	634	3	+3

Notes: (1) Seaborne inward cargo comprises seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment.

(2) % share is the share in tonnage terms with respect to the total tonnage of seaborne inward cargo.

**Table 5: Seaborne outward cargo<sup>(1)</sup> by top ten principal commodities**

<u>Commodity group</u>	<u>2nd quarter</u>		<u>% change over</u>
	<u>1995</u>	<u>% share<sup>(2)</sup></u>	<u>2nd quarter 1994</u>
	( '000 tonnes)		
Machinery	1 101	11	+13
Other manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1 078	10	+31
Other manufactured articles	803	8	+18
Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	562	5	+19
Toys	528	5	+13
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	455	4	*
Artificial resins and plastic materials	426	4	+69
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	389	4	-6
Footwear	373	4	+18
Other chemicals and related products	355	3	+14

Notes: (1) Seaborne outward cargo comprises seaborne exports (domestic exports plus re-exports) and seaborne outward transshipment.

(2) % share is the share in tonnage terms with respect to the total tonnage of seaborne outward cargo.

(3) \* less than 0.5%.

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### Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Council re-appointment

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The Secretary for Financial Services, Mr Rafael Hui, announced today (Friday) that the Government had re-appointed Mr John Chan Cho-chak to the Council of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Ltd.

Mr Chan was first appointed to the Council of the Stock Exchange two years ago. His current term expires today.

"We are very pleased to re-appoint Mr Chan who has made significant contribution to the work of the Council of the Stock Exchange in the past two years.

"Among his other public service, Mr Chan is also the Chairman of the Hong Kong Securities Clearing Company Ltd," Mr Hui said.

Mr Chan's re-appointment is for two years up to and including the Annual General Meeting of the Stock Exchange in October 1997.

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### Hong Kong to host international fire conference

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Hong Kong will host a Fire East '95 International Fire Conference and Exhibition from November 7 to 9 at the Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The three-day event, jointly organised by the Institution of Fire Engineers (Hong Kong Branch), the Federation of British Fire Organisations and the FMJ International Publications Ltd, is fully supported by the Fire Services Department.

This is the third international conference of its kind being held in Hong Kong.

Over 250 delegates representing about 15 countries will attend the annual event. Among them are fire officers, fire engineers, consultants, architects and fire service installation contractors.

In addition, there will be about 100 exhibitors displaying their most advanced fire systems and equipment. The exhibition is open to the public. Admission is free.

Thirty renowned experts in the field, including the Vice-Director, Public Security Ministry Fire Bureau of China, Mr Sun Lun, have been invited to speak in the conference.

End/Friday, October 27, 1995

Applications open for security permits and licences

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The Security and Guarding Services Industry Authority (SGSIA) will start accepting applications for security company licences from November 2, the Authority's chairman, Mrs Miriam Lau, announced today (Friday).

Applications for security personnel permits can be made to the Commissioner of Police, also from that date, she said.

The criteria and conditions for issuing the permits and licences, which were drawn up by the SGSIA, were gazetted on August 4 and October 13 respectively.

Speaking at a press conference, Mrs Lau said the Security and Guarding Services Ordinance enacted last December required individuals and companies to hold valid permits and licences respectively in order to perform security work for reward.

"The aim of the licensing scheme is to regulate the security and guarding services industry with a view to upgrading the standard of service," she said.

With effect from June 1 next year, watchmen of residential buildings, armed or unarmed security guards, and technicians responsible for installation or design of security devices need to possess a security personnel permit issued by the Commissioner of Police.

Mrs Lau said those who already possessed a watchman's permit issued in accordance with the Watchmen Ordinance, however, need not apply for the time being.

"Their permits will remain valid until they are notified individually by the SGSIA in writing to apply for the new permit," she said.

Mrs Lau said the criteria for issuing the security personnel permit included age, good health, good character, proficiency in the job, the requirement to hold a valid arms licence and recommendations by prospective employers. Different criteria may apply to different types of security work.

As for security companies, she said also from June 1 next year, a licence would be required for companies providing such services as guarding, armoured transportation, and installation and design of security devices.

"The SGSIA had consulted trade associations in the security industry on the licensing requirements," she said.

"In determining an application for a security company licence, the SGSIA will consider the company's background, its equipment and facilities, and its supervisory methods with reference to an investigation report made by the Police."

Interested parties can obtain information pamphlets and application forms for the security personnel permits from the District Offices, Police Licensing Office and the office of SGSIA from November 2. Information pamphlets and application forms for the security company licences can be obtained from the office of SGSIA.

Enquiries about permit applications should be directed to the Police Licensing Office on 2866 0300. As for licence applications, enquiries should be made to SGSIA on 2801 6181.

Mrs Lau said SGSIA would write to owners corporations, mutual aid committees, security companies and property management companies to remind them of the new licensing scheme and inform them of the application procedures.

She added that apart from administering the licensing scheme, SGSIA would work closely with the industry to enhance the quality of security service in Hong Kong.

"Efforts will be made to develop more training opportunities for employees in the industry, to encourage the setting up of a code of practice, and to educate the public on the importance of security work and their reasonable expectation as consumers," Mrs Lau said.

End/Friday, October 27, 1995

#### Schools are invited to join dance festival

\* \* \* \* \*

All primary and secondary schools including special schools are being invited to participate in the 32nd Schools Dance Festival.

The annual event, jointly organised by the Education Department, the Hong Kong Schools Sports Council, the Urban Council and Regional Council, will be held between January 8 and 25 next year.

A spokesman for the Education Department said today (Friday) the festival was aimed at giving opportunity to teachers and students to share their experience in performing the art of dancing.

The spokesman said: "Dances are divided to Chinese Dance, Oriental Dance, Western Folk Dance, Modern Dance and Children Dance. Schools taking part in the event may enter solo, duet, trio and group."

Trophies and awards will be presented to the winning schools.

Overall Challenge Awards will be presented to four primary and four secondary schools with the highest total score in their best four dances in the festival.

Most Progressive School Awards will be given to a primary and secondary school which have participated in the Schools Dance Festival for three consecutive years with the greatest progress.

Champion Awards will be presented to the top scoring primary and secondary schools in each category of dance except Children Dance.

Schools with outstanding performance will be invited to perform in the Winners Performances and trophies will be presented to the winning schools at the Prize Presentation Ceremony.

Entry form should be sent to the Education Department on or before November 3. For enquiries, please contact the Physical Education Section of the department on 2892 6292.

End/Friday, October 27, 1995

Footbridge for Tsuen Wan

\* \* \* \* \*

The Territory Development Department's New Territories West Development Office has proposed to construct a covered footbridge at Sha Tsui Road, Tsuen Wan .

The footbridge, which will be spanning between the north side of Sha Tsui Road and the Tsuen Wan Town Hall, will improve the traffic flow at the junction of Sha Tsui Road and Tai Ho Road.

It will also benefit pedestrians walking between the Tsuen Wan Ferry Pier and the Tsuen Wan MTR Station.

Works are scheduled to begin early next year for completion in 15 months.

A notice of the proposed works was gazetted today (Friday).

The plan showing the proposed works can be seen at the Public Enquiry Service Centre of the Central and Western District Office, the Tsuen Wan District Office, and the Tsuen Wan District Lands Office.

Any person objecting to the proposed works should write to the Secretary for Transport, Central Government Offices, East Wing, second floor, Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong, before December 26, describing his interest and manner in which he will be affected.

End/Friday, October 27, 1995

#### Sai Kung Public Pier extension works

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The Government proposes to construct an extension to the Sai Kung public pier to provide berthing facilities for public use.

In another project, the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club intends to build a landing platform to the north of the existing public pier for ferry service for the Kau Sai Chau Public Golf Centre. This will provide additional landing steps for public use.

Work for both projects is scheduled to commence in December this year for completion in three months.

The extent of the area affected is described in two notices published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

Any person who considers that he has an interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and sea-bed involved may submit a written objection to the Director of Lands within two months from today (Friday).

Notice of objection should describe the interest, right or easement of the objector and the manner in which he claims he will be affected.

The notices (in both English and Chinese) together with its related plans can be seen on notice boards posted near the site.

The plans can also be seen and copies can be purchased on order at the Lands Department Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong.

They are also available for public inspection at the Sai Kung District Office, 2nd floor, Sai Kung Government Offices, 34 Chan Man Street, Sai Kung, New Territories.

End/Friday, October 27, 1995

#### Construction of drainage outfall at Ma Wan

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The Government intends to permit reclamation of about 1,260 square metres of foreshore and sea-bed at Ma Kok Tsui and another 790 square metres of foreshore and sea-bed at Kung Tsai Wan in Ma Wan for formation and construction of stormwater drainage outfall.

The works will involve trench dredging and ancillary works in the foreshore and sea-bed for the laying of a pipe/box culvert outfall.

Both projects are scheduled to commence work in the middle of next year for completion at the end of 1998.

The extent of the area affected is described in two notices published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

Any person who considers that he has an interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and sea-bed involved may submit a written objection to the Director of Lands within two months from today (Friday).

Notice of objection should describe the interest, right or easement of the objector and the manner in which he claims he will be affected.

The notices (in both English and Chinese) together with its related plans can be seen on notice boards posted near the site.

The plans can also be seen and copies can be purchased on order at the Lands Department Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong.

They are also available for public inspection at the Tsuen Wan District Office, 1st floor, Tsuen Wan Station Multi-storey Carpark Building, 174-208 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories.

End/Friday, October 27, 1995

#### New Jetty for Peng Chau

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The Government intends to construct a new jetty at Tai Lei Island in Peng Chau.

Work will also involve the construction of a mooring dolphin and protective works for submarine cables and the dredging of foreshore and seabed for berthing refuse transfer vessels.

This will provide berthing facilities and marine access for the Peng Chau refuse transfer station of the outlying islands refuse transfer facilities.

Work will commence in the middle of next year for completion in mid-1997.

The extent of the area affected is described in a notice published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

Any person who considers that he has an interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and sea-bed involved may submit a written objection to the Director of Lands within two months from today (Friday).

Notice of objection should describe the interest, right or easement of the objector and the manner in which he claims he will be affected.

The notice (in both English and Chinese) together with its related plans can be seen on notice boards posted near the site.

The plan can also be seen and copies can be purchased on order at the Lands Department Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong.

It is also available for public inspection at the Islands District Office, 20th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.

**Tenders for flood protection works invited**

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The Territory Development Department's New Territories North Development Office is inviting tenders for village flood protection works at Tsung Pak Long and Tai Tau Leng in Sheung Shui.

The village flood protection scheme is part of the continuing development programme for the Fanling/Sheung Shui New Town.

The works mainly comprise the construction of flood protection wall and embankment, a flood storage pond and pumping station, drainage channels and associated footpaths and maintenance accesses, reprovisioning of a footbridge, and landscaping.

Works are expected to begin in December for completion in 30 months.

A notice of invitation for tenders was contained in the Government Gazette published today (Friday).

Tender forms and further particulars may be obtained from the office of Maunsell Consultants Asia Limited, 4 Fung Wo Lane, Wo Che, Sha Tin.

The tender closing date is noon on November 24.

End/Friday, October 27, 1995

**Reprovisioning of school for physically handicapped children**

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for the reprovisioning of Hong Kong Christian Services Pui Oi School for Physically Handicapped Children in Tuen Mun.

Works include the construction of a two-storey school for physically handicapped children together with associated drainage and external works.

Details of the tender are contained in the Government Gazette published today (Friday).

Tender forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Architectural Services Department, 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

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 on the ground floor lift lobby, Central Government Offices, Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong before noon on November 17 (Friday).

Late tenders will not be accepted.

Only contractors on the Approved Contractors for Public Works List I in Groups B & C for Building Works will be permitted to tender.

End/Friday, October 27, 1995

DSD looks for electrical and electronic contractors

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The Drainage Services Department is inviting tenders for two separate contracts for maintenance of electrical and electronics equipment for sewage treatment facilities.

One of the contracts is for the inspection, overhaul and testing of electrical equipment at various sewage treatment plants and pumping stations.

Another contract is for the inspection, repair, overhaul and testing of electronics equipment at various sewage treatment plants and their outstations.

Both contracts will begin in April next year and will last for 24 months.

Notices of the two tender invitations were gazetted today (Friday).

Tender forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Contracts Section of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, 98 Caroline Hill Road, Causeway Bay. The tender closing dates for both contracts are noon on December 1.

End/Friday, October 27, 1995

Heritage trust board chairman appointed

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The Government today (Friday) announced the appointments of Mr Alexander Au Siu-kee as Chairman and Mr David Wong Shou-yeh as member of the Board of Trustees of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust.

The appointments run from October 1 this year to March 31, 1997.

It is also announced that Mrs Chien Whang Hwee-leng has been appointed a member of the Council of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust from October 17, 1995, to March 31, 1997.

End/Friday, October 27, 1995

Best Licensing Service Award to be launched

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The Transport Department will launch the Best Licensing Service Award next month for the counter staff working in the department's four licensing offices.

Members of the public who come to these offices will be invited to vote for the counter staff who provide the best customer service.

The Assistant Commissioner for Transport, Dr Ernest Lee, said: "This event, the third of its kind, demonstrates our continued commitment to promoting customer service through encouraging good quality work from our staff and giving recognition to those who provide the best service to the public."

Prizes will be awarded to the 10 best counter staff members as well as the best licensing office.

The Commissioner for Transport, Mrs Lily Yam, will present the awards to the winners at a prize presentation ceremony to be held on January 6 next year.

At the ceremony, 20 voters will also be selected by lucky draw and will each receive a petrol/diesel coupon worth \$500.

The award is sponsored by the Shell Hong Kong Ltd.

End/Friday, 27 October 1995

North Kwai Chung Methadone Clinic soon be closed

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The Department of Health today (Friday) announced that the North Kwai Chung Methadone Clinic will be closed from Monday (October 30).

A spokesman for the department said the decision was made due to the low attendance rate of the clinic.

Starting from October 30, all old patients of the clinic seeking re-admission should proceed to Ho Man Tin Methadone Clinic situated at 50 Princess Margaret Road, Ho Man Tin. They should bring along their treatment cards and two recent photographs for admission registration.

The registration hours are between 2.30 pm and 4 pm on Monday and Thursday. The other services provided at the North Kwai Chung Clinic will not be affected.

End/Friday, October 27, 1995

Fresh water cut in Wan Chai

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Wan Chai will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Monday (October 30) to 6 am the following day for water mains leakage detection.

The suspension will affect premises in 144-193 Gloucester Road, 250-348 and 239-339 Jaffe Road, 320-374 and 271-371 Lockhart Road, 313-371 Hennessy Road, 4-16 Stewart Road, Tonnochy Road and 1-17 Marsh Road.

End/Friday, October 27, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	\$ million -----	Time (hours) -----	Cumulative change (\$million) -----
Opening balance in the account	1,917	0930	+955
Closing balance in the account	2,539	1000	+655
Change attributable to :		1100	+655
Money market activity	+657	1200	+657
LAF today	-35	1500	+657
		1600	+657

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 121.9 \*-0.1\* 27.10.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.39	2 years	2708	6.06	100.44	5.88
1 month	5.50	3 years	3810	6.15	99.95	6.26
3 months	5.62	5 years	5009	6.95	100.80	6.87
6 months	5.64	5 years	M501	7.90	102.76	7.31
12 months	5.67					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$28,127 million

Closed October 27, 1995

End/Friday, October 27, 1995