



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Fund contributes to a cleaner and greener Hong Kong

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The Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) is making steady progress to encourage public interest in initiating and participating in projects leading to a cleaner and greener Hong Kong.

Since the launching of the Fund in August last year, ECF has approved grants totalling \$16.9 million in support of 91 environmental and conservation projects, many of which are community projects receiving support for the first time.

The primary aim of ECF is to assist projects that will improve or sustain Hong Kong's environment through practical public awareness and research projects.

Chairman of the ECF Committee set up to advise on the use of the fund, Mr Peter Woo, said: "I am delighted and encouraged by the broad spectrum of non-profit organisations that have applied for grants during this first phase of the funding programme.

"It is our aim to try to get as many people involved in caring for the environment as possible and provide them with financial support to benefit the public at large. It is the participation of people at the grassroots level that can and will make the change for the better."

The Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Bowen Leung, said: "I am pleased to see that these projects will involve the active participation of more than 120,000 people.

"This is a useful indication that the ECF Committee has succeeded in its task to raise public interest in caring for our environment."

Mr Leung thanked the ECF Committee and its sub-committees for their excellent work in selecting worthwhile projects to be supported by the Fund.

"I am sure that committee members with their diverse professional backgrounds will continue to perform their tasks fabulously," he said.

Among the projects funded by ECF is the Environmental Resource Centre now being set up in Tsuen Wan. This will be the first environmental resource centre to be operated by community groups.

The centre will provide environmental information to the public with the ultimate goal of arousing public interest in taking positive action to improve the environment.

A substantial grant has also been made to a number of green groups to undertake 16 projects to encourage public participation in activities that will sustain the local environment. Other community groups received an allocation of about \$0.7 million to undertake 46 environmental projects.

Grants have also been made in support of research by green groups and tertiary institutions to enhance the protection and conservation of biodiversity in Hong Kong.

Of the 91 projects approved by ECF, three were jointly funded with the Woo Wheelock Green Fund, a private fund established by Wheelock and Company Ltd.

Mr Leung said: "Mr Woo and Wheelock has set a precedent for people and organisations in the private sector to follow. I hope more people will show support to such a worthwhile cause that will benefit not only people in Hong Kong, but the future generations."

Mr Woo said: "Based on experience gained in the first year, the ECF Committee, in the next phase of work, will focus attention on projects that will help identify and solve pressing issues such as conservation of biodiversity, marine conservation and promotion of environmentally friendly personal or business practices.

"It remains our aim to support local efforts that will promote changes in behaviour and lifestyle towards a better environment in Hong Kong.

"In line with the government's policy, the Committee likes to see improvement in air and water quality, reduction in noise pollution, minimisation of waste, conservation of biodiversity and energy conservation, all of which aimed at improving our quality of life," Mr Woo said.

To encourage more groups to come forward to apply, ECF will streamline the application procedure.

The application form is being amended to include the strategic objectives of the Fund and guidelines on budget preparation, taking into account feedback from applicants in the past year. The revised form will be available later this year.

Meanwhile, the current application form will continue to be available from the Planning, Environment and Lands Branch, the Environmental Protection Department and District Offices.

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

Open channel to be fenced off to stop illegal dumping

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The Kowloon Development Office of the Territory Development Department (TDD) will fence off a temporary open channel adjacent to Wong Tai Street in Tai Kok Tsui to prevent further illegal dumping in the channel.

Illegal dumping by the public has turned the open channel into a refuse dump, with stormwater being polluted and blocked by refuse, despite frequent clearance by the contractors working on the West Kowloon Reclamation.

"We are very concerned about the environmental problems this has caused to nearby residents and will be stepping up efforts to rectify the situation," said TDD's Project Manager/Kowloon, Mr C H Yue, today (Friday).

"The fencing-off work will start shortly and is expected to be completed within three weeks," he added.

Apart from fencing off the channel, the development office will also ask the Urban Services Department (USD) and the police to step up action against illegal dumping.

At the same time, it will also ask USD to spray insecticide oil into the open channel regularly to prevent mosquito breeding.

Meanwhile, the development office has instructed its contractors to clear wastes at their sites more frequently - at least once a week. It will also step up site control to minimise further environmental nuisances to the residents. As a long-term solution, it will ask its contractor to look into the possibility of filling up the open channel at an earlier date.

These short and long term measures were discussed at a meeting among the development office, members of the Yau Tsim Mong District Board and representatives of the Tai Kok Tsui residents today.

The open channel receives stormwater from outfalls along an old seawall as an outlet to the sea. All these outfalls will have to be connected to a new drain at West Kowloon Reclamation before the channel can be filled up.

Construction of the new drain has been included in a roadwork contract which commenced in August this year for completion at the end of 1996.

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

Financial Secretary to visit US

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The Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, will leave Hong Kong for Washington DC this (Friday) evening to attend the 1995 Annual Meetings of the World Bank/International Monetary Fund (IMF) and to visit New York.

Over 10,000 participants from about 180 member countries will take part in the meetings to be held in the US capital between October 10 to 12. The delegations are headed by finance ministers or governors of central banks.

While in Washington, Mr Tsang will attend a series of official functions where he will meet finance ministers, leading bankers and heads of financial institutions in the world. He will also attend a number of banking and financial seminars. He will fly to New York after participating in the meetings.

On October 12, he will address the National Committee on US-China Relations on "Hong Kong: A City in Transition".

A study team, headed by Executive Director (External), Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), Mr James H Lau, Jr, has also arrived in Washington to study the arrangements for the annual meetings. HKMA is responsible for organising the 1997 IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings in Hong Kong.

Mr Tsang will return to Hong Kong on October 15.

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

Report on electric and magnetic field only a working draft

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In response to enquiries about Electric and Magnetic Field (EMF) reports in today's (Friday) newspapers, a spokesman for the Working Group on EMF said the reported information was only a working draft material which had absolutely no standing at this time.

"The Working Group on EMF was recently advised by the President of United States National Council of Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) that the draft material formulated in connection with the work of a committee of the NCRP has been disseminated outside the Committee membership and portions have been published and widely distributed without the authorisation of the NCRP.

"The NCRP President further advised that the draft in question is still undergoing revisions to prepare it for entry into the initial review phase of the five major stages of the extensive review process," the spokesman noted.

He said the Working Group on EMF had studied the working draft report and would continue to monitor the latest developments on the issue.

"However, the adoption of the International Radiation Protection Association guidelines, which have been adopted or recommended for use in similar form by many countries, is considered to be appropriate for Hong Kong," the spokesman stressed.

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

Applications invited for funding health care projects

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The Health Care and Promotion Fund (HCPF) is inviting applications for funding for promotion projects, research on health promotion interventions and treatment that is not locally available, particular in respect of rare diseases.

HCPF, established by the Government through an injection of \$80 million to the Hospital Authority, aims at stepping up efforts in health promotion and disease prevention, as well as providing assistant to certain patients in need. It is available to provide financial support for:

- * Health promotion projects that help people change their lifestyle towards a state of optimal health through enhancing awareness, changing behaviour or creating an environment that supports good health practices.
- * Research projects that will provide an information base for health promotion interventions which will enhance good health and prevention and early detection of disease and disability.
- * Hong Kong residents who need to receive treatment that is not locally available, particular in respect of rare disease.

Applications are not limited to health care organisations alone. Individuals and non-profit making organisations from all sectors are welcome to apply.

Successful applicants for any of the three components of the Fund may be awarded full or partial support on a one-off basis not exceeding \$500,000.

The HCPF Committee, chaired by the Secretary for Health and Welfare and comprises health care professionals and government representatives, is responsible for the management of the Fund. Information leaflets and application forms will be available to interested organisations and individuals upon requests.

Enquiries or requests for application forms, stating clearly whether for promotion projects, research or treatment for rare diseases, should be mailed or faxed to:

HCPF Secretariat
19th floor, World Trade Centre 280 Gloucester Road
Causeway Bay
Hong Kong
(Fax: 2895 2167)

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

GEO receives 17 landslip reports

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The Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) has received a total of 17 reports of landslip since last night.

Three of the landslips occurred on Hong Kong Island, three in Kowloon and 11 in the New Territories.

Of these, eight of them affected roads and seven affected buildings.

Shortly before 7.30 am today (Friday), two people were injured as a result of a landslip from a cut slope adjacent to Castle Peak Road.

The landslip hit the rear of a double decker bus and the injuries suffered by the two victims were caused by broken glass inside the vehicle.

Both lanes of the road were closed by the police after half of one lane was blocked by the landslip which was sited at the crest of a nine-metre-high cut slope. It had a volume of about one cubic metre.

GEO staff on site have made recommendations to the Highways Department on emergency works required and on completion of such works, one lane of the road should be able to re-open this evening.

The Landslip Warning was issued at 10 pm last night, and lowered at 10.15 am this morning.

Heavy rainfall associated with thunderstorms has been affecting the territory since early yesterday evening.

Many areas have experienced over 200 mm of rainfall, with the heaviest between 5 pm yesterday and 2 am today, and further heavy rainfall between 5 am and 8.30 am this morning. Peak rainfall intensities have been in the range of 50 to 75 mm per hour.

The worst affected areas were the northern and northwestern New Territories, Kowloon and northern Hong Kong Island.

GEO has mobilised its Emergency Control Centre to respond to any landslide incidents reported. More than 15 GEO staff have been deployed or are on standby to respond to landslide reported.

In the interests of public safety, Fei Tsui Road was closed last night as a precaution during the heavy rain as only emergency repair works to the August 13 landslip have been completed. The road was re-opened this morning.

"Heavy rain will take many hours to drain away through the hillsides and there is a possibility that further landslides will continue for some time even after the rains have ceased.

"The public should be aware of this and take extra care when approaching, walking or travelling past steep slopes," a GEO spokesman said.

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

Law to protect gas pipes from careless excavation works

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The Gas Safety (Amendment) (No 2) Bill 1995, gazetted by the Government today (Friday), paves the way for the enactment of regulations to control, in the interests of safety, construction works in the vicinity of gas pipes.

Under the Bill, the maximum penalties that may be provided for in regulations made under the Gas Safety Ordinance are set to increase to a fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for 12 months. Currently, the maximum penalties are a fine of \$25,000 and six months imprisonment.

The Bill will enable the Gas Authority to inspect works near gas pipes, require immediate improvement where works are endangering a gas pipe and to prosecute offenders.

If passed by the Legislative Council, the Bill will be followed by new regulations requiring that construction works should not be carried out near a gas pipe unless its position has been checked and steps taken to ensure that it will not be damaged by the works.

Under the new regulations, a person not taking all reasonable measures to protect a gas pipe from damage arising out of his construction works that is likely to prejudice safety commits an offence and is liable on conviction to the new maximum penalty of a fine of \$200,000 and to imprisonment for 12 months.

The proposals reflect the Government's concern at the frequent damage done to gas pipes through careless excavation work. There were 120 such incidents last year.

While the consequences of most of these incidents are relatively minor, damage to a gas pipe may lead to a major fire or explosion. The proposed legislation aims to minimise the potential for such hazards.

The Government intends to bring the bill into effect six months after enactment so as to allow time for the new regulations to be drafted, for a code of practice to be issued by the Gas Authority and for the gas supply companies and the construction industry to adjust to the new requirements.

The Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council on October 18. It was originally introduced into LegCo on March 8 as the Gas Safety (Amendment) Bill but was subsequently deferred, along with several other bills, to the 1995-96 session at the request of the Council.

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Bank Notes Issue (A) Bill

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The Bank Notes Issue (Amendment) Bill 1995 was published in the Gazette today (Friday).

A government spokesman said the main purpose of the Bill was to modify the legal framework for the issue of legal tender currency notes so that it would be consistent with the provisions in the Sino-British Joint Declaration (JD) and the Basic Law (BL).

He said the Bill would provide for the statutory authority for the Government to issue currency notes.

"This is merely to make the Bank Notes Issue Ordinance consistent with the provisions in the JD and the BL. The Government has no intention of taking over the note-issuing function from the note-issuing banks," he said.

Consistent with this proposed amendment, the backing mechanism for the issue of bank notes would be extended to the currency notes, if any, issued by the Government.

The Bill would also provide an explicit power for the Financial Secretary, with the approval of the Governor-in-Council, to authorise banks to issue bank notes, as required by the JD and the BL. Such power was not explicitly provided in the existing statutory provisions.

"The three existing note-issuing banks will deem to have been authorised when the Ordinance comes into effect," the spokesman said.

The spokesman said the Bill also sought to enable the Financial Secretary to stipulate the terms and conditions for authorising a note-issuing bank, which would cover those aspects relating to the design, denomination, means of production, distribution, quantity, safe-keeping and destruction of the legal tender bank notes.

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

Bill to tighten control over building works gazetted

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A bill which seeks to improve the registration system for building contractors and professionals and to tighten safety control over building works and sites is gazetted today (Friday).

A government spokesman said the Buildings (Amendment) (No 3) Bill 1995, if enacted, would provide a reasonable, workable and pragmatic approach to enhance public safety in respect of building works.

"We have taken on board the concerns and legitimate interests of the industry and professions," the spokesman said.

The Amendment Bill was first introduced into the Legislative Council on May 31 and was refined after the Administration further consulted the building industry, the building professions and various advisory bodies including the Land and Building Advisory Committee on supplementary details during the past few months.

The Amendment Bill, with the refinements, will now be introduced into LegCo on October 18.

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Tax Reserve Certificates (A) Bill

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The Tax Reserve Certificates (Amendment) Bill 1995 was gazetted today (Friday).

The Bill seeks to enable the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) to launch the voluntary PAYE Scheme and to maintain accounts for Tax Reserve Certificates (TRC) purchased by taxpayers without the issue of paper certificates.

"Under existing legislation, IRD must issue a paper certificate to a taxpayer who purchases a TRC directly from the department or through a bank. The taxpayer also has to surrender the certificates when he pays his tax bill," a government spokesman said.

"The PAYE Scheme will be introduced initially for civil servants on a trial basis.

"A civil servant may authorise the Treasury to deduct from his salary a specified sum each month for the purchase of TRC. IRD will credit the payments to a TRC account maintained in the applicant's name and automatically settle his tax bill on the due date. Any surplus amount will be carried forward in the account," the spokesman explained.

"The scheme will offer a convenient and automatic saving method for settling tax bills. We will review its operation after implementation to examine whether the scheme should be extended to other groups of people, for example, civil service pensioners in Hong Kong and overseas."

The Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council on October 18.

Any person who has further enquiries may call the Tax Reserve Certificate Section, IRD, on 2594 3217.

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Hotels to sell departure tax coupons

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The Government has proposed to allow hotels to collect air passenger departure tax for the Administration by selling tax coupons to their guests.

At present, the departure tax, payable by all passengers at the age of 12 or above leaving Hong Kong by air, is collected by the airline operators for the Government at the time of check-in for flights.

A government spokesman said today (Friday) that the proposed arrangement was aimed at improving Hong Kong's services to air passengers.

"Overseas visitors staying at hotels will no longer need to worry about keeping Hong Kong dollars for payment of the departure tax at the airport. The amount may also be included in the hotel room bills," the spokesman said.

"The proposal is supported by the Hong Kong Tourist Association and the Hong Kong Hotels Association. Over 40 hotels have expressed interest to participate in the proposed scheme," the spokesman added.

Details of the proposal are contained in the Air Passenger Departure Tax (Amendment) Bill 1995 which was published in today's Gazette.

The Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council on October 18.

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

Film censorship fees to be revised

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The Film Censorship (Amendment) (No 2) Regulation which seeks to revise the fees payable under the main regulations to achieve full cost recovery was published in the Gazette today (Friday).

"A review of the fees payable under the Film Censorship Regulations has been conducted recently," said a spokesman from the Recreation and Culture Branch.

"The review concluded that while the fees for the censorship of a still film and the issue of a replacement certificate are still adequate to cover the full costs, the censorship fee for a film other than a still film needs to be increased by 5.9 per cent, and the fees for the exemption of films and the approval of Category III videotape/laserdiscs packaging need to be increased by about nine per cent in order to recover the full costs of the services provided," the spokesman said.

The amendment regulation will be tabled in the Legislative Council on October 11 and come into effect on November 9.

Details of the existing and revised fees are as follows:

	Existing fee -----	Revised fee -----
Censorship fee for a still film	\$20	\$20
Censorship fee for any film other than a still film (per minute of running time or part thereof)	\$68	\$72
Fee for the issue of a replacement certificate	\$157	\$157

Exemption fee for a still film	\$28	\$31
Exemption fee for any film other than a still film (per minute of running time or part thereof)	\$22	\$24
Fee for the approval of Category III videotape/laserdisc packaging	\$368	\$402

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Training ground offers to local law graduates

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The Legal Department is inviting applicants ordinarily domiciled in Hong Kong to fill vacancies under the Legal Trainee Scheme from August 1 next year.

The scheme, introduced for the fourth year, is intended to provide practical training for local law graduates in accordance with the requirements of the Law Society of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Bar Association.

The scheme is also open to government officers serving in legal/judicial group of departments who hold qualifications recognised for training purposes by the two professional bodies.

A spokesman for the Legal Department said today (Friday) that to give more legal trainees the chance to acquire experience in various types of legal work undertaken by government lawyers, the quota for the scheme has increased from five places in 1993 to 15 places.

"Although no obligation is placed on legal trainees to join the Legal Department after completing the training, nor is the Legal Department obliged to offer appointment to them, the Legal Trainee Scheme provides a constant pool of high quality young local lawyers who are valuable for the implementation of the department's localisation programme," the spokesman said.

Under the scheme, trainees of both solicitor and barrister streams will work in the Civil and Prosecutions Divisions of the department for periods of three to six months. They will also spend several months in the private sector to gain experience there.

During the period of attachment to the Prosecutions Division, trainees may have the opportunity to attend a four week practical prosecuting course consisting of lectures, discussions and mock court sessions. On completion of the course, they will be assigned to various courts to prosecute, an experience which many previous trainees found invaluable.

In addition, trainee solicitors, who will join the scheme for a period of two years, will according to their preference work for a total of six months in the legal/judicial group of departments, such as the Legal Aid Department, the Intellectual Property Department or the Official Receiver's Office.

Assistant Crown Counsel (that is trainees under the barrister stream), on the other hand, will join the scheme for one year and undergo a 12-month pupillage programme. Apart from attachment to a practising barrister in the private sector, the programme also includes attachment to a judge's marshal to enable trainees to see the courts in action from the Bench.

Throughout the whole training period in the Legal Department, all trainees will be under the supervision of experienced counsel who will guide and advise to them while a more senior counsel will monitor the training and provide them with additional assistance if needed.

Trainees will also have opportunities to assist experienced counsel in dealing with major and complicated cases.

Legal trainees will receive a monthly honorarium of \$29,005 in the first 12 months and \$30,365 in the second 12 months.

Interested candidates should apply in writing with a completed application form (G F 340, obtainable from any District Office of Home Affairs Department or from the Local Employment Service, Labour Department) to the Senior Training Officer, Legal Department, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, before October 21.

An academic reference is required for those who are not serving officer and should be sent direct from the Department or Faculty of Law to the same address before November 10.

Information pamphlets are available at the Legal Department, ninth Floor, Queensway Government Offices. Enquiries can be made on 2867 2233.

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

Volume and price movements of external trade in July

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In the first seven months of 1995, the volume of re-exports increased by 17% over the same period last year, while the volume of domestic exports increased by 6.5%, according to the statistics released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Taking re-exports and domestic exports together, the volume of total exports increased by 15%. Meanwhile, imports increased by 17% in volume.

The growth in the volume of trade is derived from the growth in trade values with the effect of price changes being discounted.

As regards price changes over the same period of comparison, the prices of re-exports and domestic exports increased by 3.8% and 2.5% respectively. Import prices increased by 6%. Price changes are reflected by changes in unit value indices, which are compiled based on average unit values or, for certain commodities, based on specific price data.

The terms of trade index, defined as the ratio of total export price index to import price index, decreased by 2.3% in the first seven months of 1995 over the same period last year.

Comparing July 1995 with July 1994, the volume of re-exports increased by 16%, while that of domestic exports increased by 5.7%. Taken together, the volume of total exports increased by 14%. Meanwhile, the volume of imports grew by 15%. Over the same period of comparison, the prices of re-exports and domestic exports increased by 4.2% and 2.5% respectively. Import prices increased by 6%.

The changes in the value, unit value and volume of re-exports by end-use category are shown in Table 1.

Comparing July 1995 with July 1994, the volume of re-exports of all end-use categories recorded increases of various magnitudes: fuels (+106%), capital goods (+22%), raw materials and semi-manufactures (+21%), consumer goods (+9.6%), and foodstuffs (+8.3%).

Over the same period of comparison, increases in the prices of re-exports were noted of most of the end-use categories: raw materials and semi-manufactures (+9.7%), consumer goods (+2.2%), foodstuffs (+1.7%), and capital goods (+1.7%).

On the other hand, the re-export price of fuels decreased by 1.5%.

The changes in the value, unit value and volume of domestic exports by principal commodity group are shown in Table 2.

Comparing July 1995 with July 1994, commodity groups which recorded increases in volume of domestic exports included metal ores and scrap (+60%); and radios of all kinds (+34%).

On the other hand, the volume of domestic exports of footwear and textile yarn and thread decreased by 67% and 18% respectively.

Commodity groups which recorded increases in domestic export prices included textile made-ups and related articles (+7.1%); and textile yarn and thread (+6.4%).

The changes in the value, unit value and volume of imports by end-use category are shown in Table 3.

The import volume of foodstuffs increased by 6% in July 1995 compared with July 1994.

Significant increases in the import volume were noted of wheat and flour; and soya bean oil, peanut oil, vegetable oil and lard. However, decreases in the import volume were noted of animals of the bovine species, live; and vegetables. Over the same period of comparison, the import volume of consumer goods increased by 7.5%.

Significant increases in import volume were recorded in cameras, flashlight apparatus and supplies for photography; and miscellaneous made-up articles of textile materials. However, decreases in the import volume were noted of passenger motor cars; and tobacco manufactures.

The import volume of raw materials and semi-manufactures increased by 18% in July 1995 compared with July 1994.

Significant increases in import volume were noted of base metal other than iron and steel; and cotton yarn and thread. However, the import volume of wool and other animal hair; and raw cotton declined. Imports of fuels increased by 7.1% in volume in July 1995 compared with July 1994.

As regards capital goods, the import volume increased by 33% in July 1995 over July 1994.

Notable increases were recorded in the import volume of construction machinery; and transport equipment. The import volume of industrial machinery, other than textile machinery and electrical machinery however declined. Comparing July 1995 with July 1994, the import prices of most of the end-use categories increased: raw materials and semi-manufactures (+9.7%), capital goods (+4.8%), foodstuffs (+4.5%), and consumer goods (+4%).

On the other hand, the import price of fuels decreased by 1%.

Details of the above statistics are published in the July 1995 issue of the "Hong Kong Trade Index Numbers".

The report will be on sale around October 10 at \$14 per copy at either the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway; or the Publications Section of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries regarding regular subscription to this report may be directed to the Publications (Sales) Office of the Information Services Department at 28th floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong, Tel 2598 8194, and enquiries on trade indices to the Census and Statistics Department, Tel 2582 4918.

Table 1 : Changes in re-exports by end-use category

End-use category	Comparing JUL 1995 with JUL 1994			Comparing JAN-JUL 1995 with JAN-JUL 1994		
	% changes			% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Foodstuffs	8.1	1.7	8.3	21.4	2.4	20.6
Consumer goods	11.9	2.2	9.6	11.1	2.3	9.2
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	33.0	9.7	21.0	33.0	9.1	21.7
Fuels	105.6	-1.5	105.6	39.9	3.7	35.2
Capital goods	17.4	1.7	22.4	25.4	0.4	29.0
ALL COMMODITIES	19.1	4.2	15.7	20.1	3.8	16.7

Table 2 : Changes in domestic exports by principal commodity group

Commodity group	Comparing JUL 1995 with JUL 1994			Comparing JAN-JUL 1995 with JAN-JUL 1994		
	% changes			% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Clothing	6.1	1.4	5.2	7.5	1.6	6.0
Textile fabrics	-0.9	3.4	-7.2	-1.9	4.7	-6.7
Textile yarn and thread	-11.8	6.4	-17.9	-5.3	2.6	-8.5
Textile made-ups and related articles	-0.9	7.1	-9.3	20.3	12.8	5.7
Radios of all kinds	37.9	2.1	33.8	3.3	0.9	9.0
Electronic components	11.3	4.1	8.6	25.2	4.1	22.6
Footwear	-63.1	3.6	-67.1	-56.2	3.9	-58.9
Metal manufactures	3.1	2.5	-1.1	7.7	2.4	5.5
Metal ores and scrap	61.0	4.9	59.8	44.0	6.4	35.7
Watches and clocks	21.5	1.5	19.3	11.5	2.3	7.7
Travel goods, handbags and similar articles	0.9	0.6	2.1	-3.6	-2.4	*
Domestic electrical appliances	25.2	1.4	25.1	-8.7	0.9	-9.1
ALL COMMODITIES	8.4	2.5	5.7	9.2	2.5	6.5

* less than 0.05%

Table 3 : Changes in imports by end-use category

End-use category	Comparing JUL 1995 with JUL 1994			Comparing JAN-JUL 1995 with JAN-JUL 1994		
	% changes			% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Foodstuffs	11.3	4.5	6.0	20.0	4.9	14.5
Consumer goods	11.3	4.0	7.5	13.1	4.3	9.2
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	29.0	9.7	17.8	32.0	9.1	20.8
Fuels	10.2	-1.0	7.1	-0.1	1.2	0.5
Capital goods	39.5	4.8	32.8	35.3	4.8	29.9
ALL COMMODITIES	22.4	6.0	15.3	23.8	6.0	16.9

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

Gambling licence fees to be revised

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Licence fees covering lotteries, tombolas, amusements with prizes, trade promotion competitions and mahjong/tin kau will be revised from November 9.

Details of the increases are listed in the Gambling (Amendment) Regulation 1995 published in the Gazette today (Friday).

A spokesman for the Home Affairs Branch said it was government policy that fees should in general be set at levels sufficient to recover the full costs of providing the services. He pointed out that the revision of licence fees for lotteries, tombolas, amusements with prizes and trade promotion competitions had been based on inflation only since 1989.

"A recent costing exercise showed that increases are necessary to bring these fees to their full cost," the spokesman said.

As to the licence fee on mahjong/tin kau, the Administration had proposed to raise it to cover the cost increase since its last revision last year, he added.

The new licence fees are set as follows:

Lottery	\$2,690
Tombola	\$11,000
Amusement with prizes	\$2,610
Trade promotion competition	\$1,360
Mahjong /tin kau	\$985 per table

The spokesman believed that the revised fees would not substantially increase the operating costs of the licensees, adding that charitable organisations would continue to qualify for a waiver or reduction of the fees under section 6 of the Gambling Regulation.

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

Licence granted to Chinese bank

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A Government spokesman said today (Friday) that the People's Construction Bank of China (PCBC) had been granted a banking licence to conduct business in Hong Kong.

PCBC, one of the four specialised banks in China, is the third largest bank in China after the Bank of China and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China in terms of assets. It ranked 44th in the world in terms of assets and 70th in terms of capital in 1994.

It operates more than 4,850 branches and sub-branches throughout China and has over 310,000 employees.

PCBC has established a representative office in Hong Kong since July 1993. It wishes to upgrade its representative office to a branch and develop it into its regional centre for South East Asia. The spokesman said the licence of PCBC was the sixth banking licence granted this year.

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

Before the grant of the PCBC licence, there were 183 licensed banks in Hong Kong, of which 152 were incorporated outside the territory.

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

Head of Trade to lead HK delegation to Tokyo APEC meeting

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The Director-General of Trade, Mr Tony Miller, will be leading a Hong Kong delegation to the Third Senior Officials Meeting for the seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) scheduled for October 9 to 13 in Tokyo, Japan.

According to a Trade Department spokesman, this meeting will be the last senior officials meeting this year before APEC economic leaders meet in Osaka in mid-November.

The spokesman said APEC senior officials will make their best endeavour to finalise an action agenda for implementing the goal of free and open trade and investment in the region by the year 2020 set down by APEC economic leaders at their last meeting in November 1994.

The October senior officials meeting will be preceded by a meeting of the Committee on Trade and Investment to be held on October 7 and 8, and a series of sub-committee and experts meetings.

An expert group on government procurement also met for a second time yesterday (Thursday). This meeting was chaired by Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong delegation comprises officials from the Trade and Industry Branch, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Tokyo, Financial Services Branch, Industry Department, Customs and Excise Department, Government Supplies Department and Trade Department.

APEC membership includes Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and the United States.

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

Chairman for disciplined services committee re-appointed

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The Government announced today (Friday) that Mrs Miriam Lau has been re-appointed as the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Disciplined Services Salaries and Conditions of Service.

Also re-appointed are Chairman of the General Disciplined Services Sub-Committee, Mr Ronald Arculli; Chairman of the Police Sub-Committee, Mr Martin Barrow; and members Mr Anthony Cheung; Mr Chow Chun-fai; Mr Poon Chin-hung; Mr Yeung Ka-sing; Mr Brian Renwick and Dr Wilfred Chan.

Mr Anthony Neoh and Mr Tang Kwai-nang have stepped down from the Committee after serving on it for six years. Mr Neoh is succeeded by Mr Renwick as the Chairman of the ICAC Sub-Committee.

The re-appointments are for a period of two years, with effect from October 1.

The Standing Committee on Disciplined Services Salaries and Conditions of Service is a permanent body appointed by the Governor to advise and make recommendations on matters relating to the structure of the disciplined services, and the salaries and conditions of service of their staff.

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

Flood prevention work in Yuen Long

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The Government intends to construct an earth bund, a pumping station, a flood storage pond and drainage channel within an area of about 0.89 hectares of foreshore and sea-bed at Chuk Yuen Tsuen and Ha San Wai in Yuen Long. The work, which aims at preventing flooding in the area, is scheduled to commence late next year for completion in mid-1999.

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 deliver to the Director of Lands a written claim for compensation within one year from today.

The submission should state the sum of money the claimant is willing to accept in full and final settlement of the claim with particulars to substantiate the claim.

The notice (in both English and Chinese) together with the related plans can be seen and copies can be purchased on order at the Lands Department's Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong.

The plan can also be seen at the Yuen Long District Office, ground floor, Yuen Long District Branch Office Building, 269 Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long, New Territories.

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

Tenders invited for slope upgrading works

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The Civil Engineering Department is inviting tenders for upgrading 15 slopes and retaining walls throughout the territory under its accelerated Landslip Preventive Measures (LPM) Programme.

The works are expected to commence in January 1996 for completion in 17 months.

The acting Chief Geotechnical Engineer of the department's Geotechnical Engineering Office, Mr Kandiah Sivaloganathan, said the contract for the upgrading works was the fourth and last one to be offered under the accelerated LPM programme this year and the first contract to be managed by consultant.

He recalled the Secretary for Works had announced earlier this year that the government's programme to upgrade government-owned man-made slopes listed in the 1977 Slope Catalogue would be completed by the year 2000 at a cost of some \$1.3 billion. Mr Sivaloganathan said at least four contracts per year were expected to be let over the five-year duration of the programme.

"Studies of private slopes and retaining walls have also been accelerated considerably and that over 200 slopes will be studied in the year 1995-96.

"A statutory notice will be served by the Buildings Department requiring owners to carry out upgrading works if the studies revealed that a slope or a retaining wall is not up to the required standards," he added.

Tender forms for the slope upgrading works contract and further particulars can be obtained from Mott Connell Limited, 12th floor Sun Hung Kai Centre, 30 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Tender offer will close at noon on November 3, 1995.

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

Application for HCFC quota allocation invited

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The Gazette today (Friday) published a notice inviting applications for quota allocations for the retained imports of 34 types of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) for the period between January 1 and December 31, 1996.

"This is in accordance with the Copenhagen Amendment of the Montreal Protocol adopted in November 1992, under which the retained imports of HCFCs will be subject to quota limitations from January 1, 1996," Principal Environmental Protection Officer of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), Mr Raymond Leung, said.

Being less destructive to the stratospheric ozone than CFCs, HCFCs are currently used as a transitional replacement for CFCs, he said.

In 1996, Hong Kong's consumption level of the HCFCs will need to be limited to the ozone depleting potential equivalent of 2,706 tonnes of HCFC-22, which is the most commonly used HCFC.

"And further steps will be taken to phase out HCFCs in the year 2030," he said.

To meet this requirement, the EPD has devised a HCFC quota allocation system.

"Quota will be allocated to applicants with proven records of importing HCFCs into Hong Kong for local use during 1992 to 1994," Mr Leung said.

Applications for quotas must be submitted in person by 5 pm on November 3 to EPD's Air Management Group, 33rd floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Application forms and further details regarding the quota system can be obtained from the above address or by telephoning 2594 6242 or 2594 6243.

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

Stability improvement works at Tai Tam Tuk Reservoir

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The Water Supplies Department is inviting tenders for stability improvement works at Tai Tam Tuk Reservoir Dam.

Specialist contractor will be invited to tender for the work which involves installation of piezometers and drilling of drainage holes at the dam. The work will commence in December this year and will last five months.

On completion, the stability and safety of the dam and the Lion Rock Group of Service Reservoirs will be improved.

Tender offer will close at noon on November 3.

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

Multiple visit permit for ex-China Macau residents

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The Immigration Department announced today (Friday) to further relax the residential requirement for ex-China residents in Macau for the issue of multiple visit permits.

"With effect from October 9, 1995, ex-China residents of Macau who are holders of Macau identity card for three years or longer will be eligible to apply for the two year multiple permits.

"The permits will allow the holders to visit Hong Kong for up to seven days in any calendar month. The fee for the permit is \$90," the spokesman said.

"The arrangement is part of a plan to eventually lower the residential requirement for ex-China residents of Macau for the issue of such permits to two years and further announcement will be made in due course."

"There is no easing of existing system of immigration control and that visitors must leave Hong Kong at the end of their permitted stay," the spokesman reiterated.

For enquiries, members of the public may telephone 2824 6111 or use faxline 2877 7711.

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

Relief articles to flooding victims

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The Social Welfare Department today (Friday) distributed emergency relief articles and hot meals to a total of 167 victims affected by various flooding and landslip incidents occurred in the New Territories.

Among the victims, 81 came from Sheung Shui, 80 from Fanling and six from Sha Tin.

End/Friday, October 6, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
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Opening balance in the account	1,941	0930	+1,235
Closing balance in the account	3,074	1000	+1,235
Change attributable to :		1100	+1,233
Money market activity	+1,233	1200	+1,233
LAF today	-100	1500	+1,233
		1600	+1,233

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 121.9 *-0.1* 6.10.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.45	2 years	2708	6.06	100.46	5.87
1 month	5.51	3 years	3807	6.16	100.15	6.19
3 months	5.57	5 years	5009	6.95	100.64	6.91
6 months	5.61	5 years	M501	7.90	102.65	7.34
12 months	5.65					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$17,608 million

Closed October 6, 1995

End/Friday, October 6, 1995