



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

Saturday, April 8, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Hong Kong architecture and city planning exhibition .....	1
Public urged to plant trees under annual scheme .....	2
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations .....	4

Sunday, April 9, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
The Governor's "Letters to Hong Kong" .....	5
EPD spokesman on HK Stadium noise monitoring .....	7
57 new building plans approved in January .....	8
Intensive English programme for S6 students .....	9
Airport Projects Resource Centre to reopen in new premises .....	10
Young musicians invited to join HK Youth Chinese Orchestra .....	11
Easter holiday clinic service .....	12
Welfare payment arrangements for public holidays .....	12

## Hong Kong architecture and city planning exhibition

\*\*\*\*\*

An exhibition of Hong Kong architecture and city planning which had been highly praised in Europe and the United States will be staged in Hong Kong from April 10 to 30.

Entitled "Hong Kong - City of Vision", the exhibition features building models, designs and photographs of notable architectural and development projects in the territory.

It will be held in the 46th floor Sky Lobby at Central Plaza, 18 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, and open to the public from 2 pm to 7.30 pm on April 10, then between 8.30 am and 7.30 pm each day until April 30. Admission is free.

In conjunction with the exhibition, lectures will be given by the Director of Planning, Dr Peter K S Pun, and two Hong Kong renowned architects, Dr Simon Kwan and Mr Anthony H H Ng, at 6 pm on April 25 in the Rayson Huang Theatre of University of Hong Kong. The lectures will be delivered in Cantonese and admission is free.

Dr Pun will speak on "Land for Urban Growth" while Dr Kwan and Mr Ng's lectures are entitled "The Application of Chinese Art Theory in Architecture" and "Architecture and the Environment", respectively.

The exhibition had recently been displayed at the Chicago Athenaeum's Museum of Architecture and Design between October last year and February as part of the successful Hong Kong-USA '94 promotion.

It also had an acclaimed run at the German Architecture Museum in Frankfurt from November 1993 to March last year.

Apart from giving an overview of the different development patterns of Hong Kong, the exhibition highlights the planning of various other areas including commerce, industry, transport, housing, community, education, recreation and preservation.

It also features seven projects of vision: Bank of China Tower, Shun Tak Centre, Central Plaza, Hongkong Bank headquarters, the new airport passenger terminal building in Chek Lap Kok, south east Kowloon development and harbour reclamations.

Also on display will be models of 22 Hong Kong's prominent buildings and development projects.

The exhibition is jointly presented by the Planning Department, Architectural Services Department and Information Services Department. The venue is sponsored by Sino Group, Sun Hung Kai Properties Group, Ryoden Group and Central Plaza Management Co Ltd.

Attention News Editors:

The exhibition will be opened by the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Tony Eason, at 11.30 am on Monday (April 10).

Also officiating at the opening ceremony will be the Director of Planning, Dr Peter K S Pun; the acting Director of Architectural Services, Mr S H Pau; and the Director of Information Services, Mrs Irene Yau.

Your representatives are invited to cover the opening ceremony to be held in the 46th floor Sky Lobby of Central Plaza, 18 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

End/Saturday, April 8, 1995

#### Public urged to plant trees under annual scheme

\*\*\*\*\*

Members of the public are urged to contribute towards the greening of Hong Kong's countryside by planting seedlings under this year's "Community Tree Planting Scheme" now in full swing.

From tomorrow (Sunday) to end of April, members of the community can plant trees between 10 am and 4 pm during Sundays and public holidays at four designated country parks of the Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD).

They are Tai Mo Shan, Quarry Bay, Pat Sin Leng (Tai Mei Tuk) and North Lantau (Nam Shan).

An AFD spokesman said countryside visitors were most welcome to plant trees at the four designated country parks. Tree seedlings, tools and technical advice would be provided by AFD at planting sites.

Schools and organisations wishing to join the scheme are also welcome as eight other country park sites have been selected for tree plantation before the end of next month. Those interested may contact AFD's Conservation Education Unit on tel 2733-2121 so that arrangements can be made.

The spokesman said the scheme had become increasingly popular year by year since its inception in 1957.

This year, over 5,000 trees had been planted at country parks by members of the public and community organisations since the launching of the scheme.

Tree species planted include *Acacia confusa*, *Acacia mangium*, *Tristania conferta*, *Machilus* spp. and *Schima superba*.

This year's "Community Tree Planting Scheme" was launched by the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Tony Eason, at the Sai Kung Country Park late last month.

The spokesman was confident that this year's scheme would be more successful than that of last year, which attracted more than 26,000 participants planting over 34,000 trees.

He said: "Trees can enrich our life. In the countryside, trees help prevent soil erosion, provide habitat and food for wildlife. They also constitute to biodiversity and improve the capacity of ecological environment."

On tree planting, he stressed that it was undoubtedly the best commitment the community could contribute towards nature conservation. Through active participation, the entire community can be fostered with more respect to the nature.

"Also, by taking part in the scheme, members of the community would be made more aware of trees and of the need to protect them," he added.

End/Saturday, April 8, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

\*\*\*\*\*

	<u>\$ Million</u>	<u>Time (Hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative Change (\$ Million)</u>
Opening Balance in the account	2,104	09:30	Nil
Closing Balance in the account	1,491	10:00	+17
Change Attributable to:		11:00	+17
Money Market Activity	+17	11:30	+17
Laf Today	-630	15:00	

Laf Rate 4.25% Bid/6.25% Offer TWI 118.8 \*-0.2\* 8.4.95

End/Saturday, April 8, 1995

The Governor's "Letters to Hong Kong"

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is the full text of Governor the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's broadcast on RTHK's "Letter to Hong Kong" today (Sunday):

It's obviously much better to be wise after the event than not wise at all. Stupid after as well as before doesn't score many brownie points.

But best of all, as a Greek philosopher argued, is being wise before things happen. Foresight is one of the great virtues even though its fruits tend to earn criticism at the time, and rarely get the applause they deserve later on.

Well, we've got a chance these days in Hong Kong to show we're smart. Not by investing in the stock market. Or buying a piece of fancy real estate. Or spotting a niche in the market. Or salting away a good racing tip for next season. The chance I'm talking about is different. Different but very, very important. We should seize it with both hands.

All those of us who come from Europe, or come from North America, have seen at least some of the consequences of one of the most awful evils of so-called civilised life in the last decades of the 20th Century. And it's been a curse in parts of Asia and the rest of the world. Drugs. Drugs - soft, hard, killing. Broken lives on street corners. Young hopes in the gutter.

I've seen all that in London, in Australia, in Paris, in Madrid, in New York, in L.A., and so on and on. I don't want to see it in Hong Kong. And we don't have to see it - or to be strictly accurate - see it getting worse in our own city.

The wreckage among families. The distraught parents. The haunted young. The crime - often violent - to pay for the murderous habit. The extra burden on the police and social workers. The costs of fighting the menace; the cost of coping with it.

So far, as I've said, things aren't as horrendous here as they are elsewhere. But the lights are starting to flash warnings, if we only look. Last week I was in one of our new towns, mostly built in the last twenty years. The District Officer there showed me where the dealers hang out in the evenings. Where the youngsters drift from apathy to drug abuse. He showed me the staircase in the public flats where heroin is sold most nights. The openings in the wall where the money is left and the drugs are picked up. That's Hong Kong. Every night, despite the best efforts of our excellent police, that's the story somewhere in this city.

We can see that from the figures. Most of the figures for crime in Hong Kong don't look too bad. Of course, any crime is bad - for the victim it's one crime too many. But in comparison with most other places, the figures are pretty good, and some of them - for instance for violent crimes - are actually falling. But you can forget that as far as drug abuse is concerned, especially drug abuse by youngsters. Since 1989 the number of reported drug abusers under the age of 21 has increased by over 200 per cent. The absolute figure has now passed 4,000. And every year it gets bigger. Most of these youngsters are male. Eight out of 10 of them are destroying their lives with heroin.

One of the odd things is that some of the reasons given for drug abuse elsewhere don't apply to nearly the same extent in Hong Kong. Above all, there's little youth unemployment here, but still the figures climb.

So what should we do about it?

One thing that we should be able to agree is that this has got to be a priority. And if it is, and we all give the campaign against drug abuse our support, then maybe we can stop our own rising problem turning into the sort of disaster we see elsewhere.

We need even stronger policing and Eddie Hui is dedicated to that. We are increasing the resources available to the police, particularly to prevent drugs getting in and to hit the dealers hard. We are going to toughen penalties and crack down on the funds salted away by the traffickers.

But there's much more to the campaign than that. We need more and better research - that's not an excuse for delay, we really do - to find why young people destroy their own lives, how best to stop them, and how to cure those who are hooked. We have to work more imaginatively in our schools to improve the quality of education about drugs and other health hazards. I saw 10 year olds the other day learning some helpful lessons about tobacco and alcohol. I know how many good teachers are already showing great initiative in this area. We want to give them more back-up and show other teachers how to tackle these subjects.

And we have to work with them, not least the voluntary organisations, who are trying to help drug abusers to kick the lethal habit and rejoin the land of the hopeful and the living. We mustn't be inhibited by old prejudices in giving a hand to the men and women who work so heroically in this field. I want us to learn what works best and then give it all the support we can.

I hope, too, that the community will accept that the facilities we need to help present and former drug abusers, have to go somewhere, and that they don't represent a danger to a neighbourhood. A much bigger danger to every neighbourhood comes from not having the means to treat those who are sick from taking drugs.

There's something for all of us to do to get this campaign off the ground. Something for everyone - parents, teachers, employers, sponsors, trade unions, social workers, youth groups, police. A part for everyone to play.

Does it matter? Of course it matters.

Can it really work? Heaven help us if it doesn't.

We've had the warning. We've got the time. And the resources. No one will forgive us if we throw away this chance.

End/Sunday, April 9, 1995

EPD spokesman on HK Stadium noise monitoring

\* \* \* \* \*

In response to press enquiries on noise monitoring results at the Hong Kong Stadium today (Sunday), a spokesman for the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) said:

"The amplified music noise of the new sound system was successfully controlled by Wembly International to within the legal limits during the day and evening periods.

"The only exceedance ( 67 - 71 db(A) ) at So Kon Po Cottage Area during the evening period was due to crowd noise. Since there have been fewer complaints than previous concerts, we feel that we should seek legal advice on whether it is fair and reasonable to include crowd noise into the noise assessment."

End/Sunday, April 9, 1995

57 new building plans approved in January

\* \* \* \* \*

The Buildings Department approved 57 building plans in January this year.

Of the plans, 37 are for Hong Kong Island, six for Kowloon and 14 for the New Territories.

The approved plans include 20 for apartment and apartment/commercial developments, five for commercial development and three for factory and industrial developments.

In the same month, consent was given for work to start on 40 building projects, which involve 59,640.9 square metres of usable domestic floor area and 92,224.7 square metres of usable non-domestic floor area.

The declared cost of new buildings completed in the month totalled about \$2,334 million.

Of the buildings certified for occupation in the month, usable floor areas for domestic and non-domestic uses are 60,562 square metres and 142,610 square metres respectively.

In the same month, the department issued 27 Occupation Permits - eight for Hong Kong Island, eight for Kowloon and 11 for the New Territories.

In addition, seven demolition consents involving 18 buildings were issued.

The Buildings Department's Control and Enforcement Division received 581 complaints of unauthorised building works, carried out 1,584 inspections and issued 251 Removal Orders on unauthorised works.

The department's Dangerous Buildings Section also inspected 794 buildings and obtained an Emergency Closure Order from the court.

End/Sunday, April 9, 1995

### Intensive English programme for S6 students

\* \* \* \* \*

Secondary 5 students who have taken at least 50 per cent of the subject in the 1995 Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) in Chinese may apply for the first Pre-Secondary 6 course under the Intensive English Programme (IEP) in August 1995.

A spokesman for the Education Department said students who were prepared to proceed to Secondary 6 in September 1995 might apply for the course.

He said the purpose of the course was to help students who had studied through the medium of Chinese to achieve the standard of English required to enter local tertiary institutions.

The IEP, which is operated by the British Council, will be conducted in three stages, he said.

The first stage is a two-week whole-day Pre-S6 course from August 21 to August 31 this year. The second stage is a four-week Post-S6 course to be held in the Summer of 1996 and the third is a four-week Post-S7 course to be held in the Summer of 1997 before students entering local tertiary institutions.

The spokesman said current S5 students who were eligible for the 1995 Pre-S6 course might now obtain an application form from their schools. Private candidates may get the form from one of the 19 District Education Offices.

The completed forms should be submitted to the Education Department in August 1995.

To be eligible for the Pre-S6 course, students must:

- \* have been admitted to S6 in the 1995-96 school year;
- \* have satisfied the requirements for taking the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination in the summer of 1997; and
- \* have taken examination in Chinese in at least 50 per cent of the subjects in the 1995 HKCEE apart from Chinese Language, Chinese Literature, Chinese History, English Language, English Literature, Buddhist Studies, Shorthand and Typewriting.

Applicants obtaining S6 places in Stage I to Stage IV under the 1995 S6 Admission Procedure should return the application form to the Education Department through the principals of their S6 schools on or before Day 4 of the S6 Admission Procedure. Day 1 is the date of announcement of the HKCEE results.

Applicants getting S6 places through Central Allocation Stage V as well as those in a non-bought place private school, the admission to which is not governed by the S6 Admission Procedure, should return the application form to Education Department through the principal of their S6 school on or before Day 9.

Meanwhile, applicants taking the 1995 HKCEE as private candidates are required to complete a separate application form and forward it to the Education Department through the principals offering S6 places to them, together with a copy of their HKCEE Admission Slips and a copy of the HKCEE Result Notice.

The list of successful applicants will be posted at the following three places at 10 am on Day 10 of the S6 Admission Procedure:

- \* Lui Kee Educational Services Centre, 269 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai;
- \* British Council Head Office, 255 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai; and
- \* Education Department Kowloon Sub-Office, 405 Nathan Road, Yau Ma Tei.

End/Sunday, April 9, 1995

Airport Projects Resource Centre to reopen in new premises

\* \* \* \* \*

The Airport and Port Projects Resource Centre will be opened to the public on Tuesday (April 11) after it moves from Central to its new premises in Causeway Bay.

The new Resource Centre will be located on the 22nd floor, East Exchange Tower, 38 Leighton Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.

It will be opened from 9 am to 1 pm and 2pm to 5 pm from Mondays to Fridays, and from 9 am to noon on Saturdays. It will be closed on Sundays and public holidays.

Members of the public can make use of the Centre to read reference materials on projects of the new airport and the port. There will also be videos and newspaper clippings available for viewing.

Two large floor-models, one showing a cross-section of the Tsing Ma suspension bridge and the other on the layout of the new airport at Chek Lap Kok will be on display in the Resource Centre.

Entrance to the Centre is free of charge and photocopying service is available at a basic fee. For enquiries and advance group booking, call 2577 0231.

End/Sunday, April 9, 1995

#### Young musicians invited to join HK Youth Chinese Orchestra

\* \* \* \* \*

Young musicians under the age of 25 wishing to join the Hong Kong Youth Chinese Orchestra will now have a chance to do so.

The orchestra, under the Music Office of the Recreation and Culture Branch, is recruiting members for 1995-96.

Applicants should have attained at least Grade VI in the Music Office's internal assessment. Qualified candidates will be invited to attend an audition on May 6.

Application forms are available at all centres of the Music Office. Completed forms should reach the Kwun Tong Music Centre, 4th floor, Ngau Tau Kok Government Offices, 21 On Wah Street, Kowloon, by April 22. Enquiries can be made on 2796 7523.

Set up in 1978, the Orchestra aims at providing orchestral training to young people. It has since taken part in a number of concerts, district art festivals and overseas music exchange programmes in the past years. The orchestra plans to perform overseas in December this year.

A spokesman for the Music Office said today (Sunday) that an intensive training programme would be drawn up which covered master classes and rehearsals conducted by local and overseas musicians.

All rehearsals will be held on Saturday afternoons at the Mong Kok Music Centre.

End/Sunday, April 9, 1995

**Easter holiday clinic service**

\*\*\*\*\*

Eight general out-patient clinics will open on April 15 (Saturday) and April 16 (Sunday) during the coming Easter Holidays.

A spokesman for the Department of Health said today (Sunday) these clinics would be open from 9 am to 1 pm.

The eight clinics are Violet Peel Health Centre and Shau Kei Wan Jockey Club Clinic on Hong Kong Island; Kwun Tong Jockey Club Health Centre, Robert Black Health Centre, and Yau Ma Tei Jockey Club Clinic in Kowloon; and Lady Trench Polyclinic, Shek Wu Hui Jockey Club Clinic and Yuen Long Jockey Club Health Centre in the New Territories.

There will be no holiday out-patient clinic service on Good Friday (April 14) and on Easter Monday (April 17).

End/Sunday, April 9, 1995

**Welfare payment arrangements for public holidays**

\*\*\*\*\*

Recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance under the bank payment system may receive their payments on Thursday (April 13) if their pay-days fall on the Easter public holidays (April 14 to 17).

A spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Sunday) that special payment arrangements would also be made for recipients of Social Security Allowance whose pay-days fell on April 14 to 17.

Those who have bank accounts with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank or Hang Seng Bank will receive their payments on Thursday (April 13) whereas those with accounts in other banks will receive their payments next Tuesday (April 18).

In case of doubt, recipients are advised to contact their respective social security field units.

End/Sunday, April 9, 1995