



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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36th JLG meeting Joint Communiqué

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The Joint Liaison Group held its thirty-sixth meeting in London on June 5, 6 and 7, 1996.

The group had a discussion about the transfer of Government, including the transitional Budget and related matters, transfer of Archives, Government assets, the handover ceremony etc.; matters relating to Hong Kong's international rights and obligations; Hong Kong's air services agreements and air services arrangements between Hong Kong and Taiwan; Civil Service matters; the defence of Hong Kong and public order; franchises and contracts extending beyond 1997 and related matters, (including the Railway Development strategy and Container Terminals); investment promotion and protection agreements between Hong Kong and relevant countries; surrender of fugitive offenders agreements between Hong Kong and certain countries; mutual legal assistance in criminal matters between Hong Kong and certain countries; the reciprocal recognition and enforcement of judgements in civil and commercial matters between Hong Kong and foreign countries; localisation of laws, adaptation of laws; the Court of Final Appeal; the implementation of the provisions of the Joint Declaration relating to the right of abode in Hong Kong after 1997; visa abolition agreements, retirement protection and social welfare; and Vietnamese migrants in Hong Kong (boat people and refugees).

The next meeting of the Joint Liaison Group will take place in Peking at a time to be decided.

End

Chief Secretary promotes US-HK relations in Dallas

\* \* \* \* \*

The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, spent the first day (Thursday, Dallas time) of her first official visit to Dallas calling on some of the city's most prominent government and business leaders.

As head of the Hong Kong-USA'96 delegation, Mrs Chan is on a promotional tour of the US to strengthen cultural and economic ties between the two places.

She started her day with a visit to Texas Instruments headquarters where she had a private meeting with Executive Vice President, William Mitchell, and acting President of the company, William Weber.

She addressed business and civic leaders at a luncheon meeting sponsored by the company and watched a demonstration of its latest digital imaging system and other technology.

Mrs Chan then called on the President of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, Rick Douglas. They agreed there are opportunities to further develop the trading relations between Hong Kong and Dallas.

"Hong Kong is the centre of Asia's globalisation and Dallas is the centre of America's globalisation," Mr Douglas said.

To strengthen the social ties and to showcase Hong Kong fashion, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council hosted a gala dinner for more than 350 guests.

The Chief Secretary, who was the guest of honour at the dinner, and the Mayor of Dallas, Mr Ronald Kirk, both delivered remarks. Mrs Chan said she hoped that her short stay in Dallas could demonstrate Hong Kong's drive and resilience.

"I do hope that during our short stay in Dallas we can give you a better feel of what is happening in Hong Kong," Mrs Chan said.

"The people of Hong Kong are confidently going about their private and public business - making long-term plans, and making sure the territory will continue in its important economic role long into the future.

"By showing the territory's underlying capabilities to the people of Texas, I am sure we can help strengthen the Hong Kong-US partnership even further."

Mayor Kirk welcomed Mrs Chan to Dallas by presenting her with a key to the city.

A fashion show, featuring the work of nine leading Hong Kong designers, followed the dinner. The gala event also marked the beginning of a major Hong Kong fashion promotion being held at the Dallas International Apparel Mart.

Mrs Chan started her tour of the US last week in Seattle, and continued on to San Francisco, Boston and New York.

In New York she headed the delegation in the first city for the Hong Kong-USA'96 promotion. After Dallas, the promotion will move to Los Angeles and then Mrs Chan will end her tour with a visit to Washington D C.

End

Safety law on cantilever scaffold

\* \* \* \* \*

In response to press enquiries, a Labour Department spokesman said today (Friday) that safety in the use of cantilever scaffold involved in yesterday's fatal industrial accident in Kwai Chung was governed by the following industrial safety legislation provisions:

- (a) Regulation 38F of the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations - that the cantilever scaffold should be adequately supported, fixed or anchored;
- (b) Regulation 38G of the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations - that the structure used as support of the scaffold shall be of sound material, sufficient strength;
- (c) Regulation 38K of the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations - the scaffold shall be inspected by a competent person at monthly intervals who should certify that it is in safe working condition in an approved form (Form 6); and
- (d) Section 6A (General Duties Provisions) of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance (FIUO) - that a contractor is required to provide a safe system of work.

The maximum fine is \$200,000 for a breach against each of these four provisions and an additional penalty of imprisonment of 12 months in respect of Section 6A of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance.

The Labour Department has obtained endorsement from the Labour Advisory Board and its Committee on Industrial Safety and Health to proposals to tighten control on working at height, working platforms and use of safety belts and safety nets.

Action is in hand to prepare the draft drafting instructions for the proposed amendment regulations.

End

### Emergency relief for industrial accident victims' families

\* \* \* \* \*

Families of the six workers killed as a result of the collapse of a platform on the Rambler Channel Bridge construction site in Kwai Chung have each been offered \$5,000 in emergency relief from the General Chinese Charities Fund by the Kwai Tsing District Office this (Friday) afternoon.

Giving the cash relief and offering his condolences to the families, the Kwai Tsing District Officer, Mr Ngai Wing-chit, said staff of the district office and other concerned government departments would keep close contact with them to see if any further assistance was needed.

End

### Public views on age discrimination in employment sought

\* \* \* \* \*

A two-month consultation to solicit public views on age discrimination in employment was started today (Friday) by the Government.

This followed a study conducted by an interdepartmental working group set up last year in the light of concerns expressed over possible discrimination of this kind.

Speaking at a press conference to launch the public consultation, the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, said the study concentrated on the possible age discrimination in employment which was the main concern, but members of the public were free to express their views on any other aspects of possible age discrimination.

Mr Wong noted that the study covered four main areas.

"The first of these was statistical analysis, where two separate exercises were undertaken.

"One exercise examined the percentage of newspaper job advertisements which mentioned age as a job requirement. During the three survey over a six month period from July 1995 to January 1996, the number of such advertisements remained below 20 per cent.

"Amongst the newspaper job advertisements which did stipulate such a requirement, the most common were in the occupational categories of (a) sales/service workers; (b) clerical workers; and (c) manual or unskilled workers," he said.

"In the second exercise, we studied the unemployment and underemployment statistics from the General Household Survey for 1994 and 1995, and found no evidence to support any discrimination in employment against persons of any age group.

"The working group also examined overseas age discrimination legislation in a number of countries, as well as other legislative measures that were designed to protect either younger or older workers."

Two members of the working group, accompanied by two Legislative Councillors, also travelled to Australia and New Zealand to discuss in greater detail the actual operation, implementation and effect of the age discrimination legislation in those countries.

Mr Wong said it was noticeable from this aspect of the study that only a comparatively small number of countries had legislated against age discrimination in employment.

"And even where such legislation exists, it is recognised generally as being no substitute for public education," he said.

Mr Wong pointed out that an important part of the study was the fact-finding survey, which was designed to collect information on factors affecting major employment decisions including recruitment, job security, and other employment conditions such as promotion and training policy, and to ascertain whether age discrimination had a role to play in such decisions.

It was carried out earlier this year by researchers of the Centre for Public Policy Studies, Lingnan College, assisted by the market research firm Survey Research Hongkong Ltd.

The main points in the survey report are as follows:

- (a) there is some evidence that job seekers and workers at both ends of the age spectrum are disadvantaged when compared to those aged between 25 and 44;
- (b) older workers tend to receive lower wage increases, are less likely to be in promotable jobs, less likely to be promoted, and less likely to be selected for training. This conclusion, however, needs to be considered in the light of the possibility that some of the surveyed older workers may have reached their top salary point or highest pay band.

- (c) a significant proportion of employer respondents indicates no age preference for a number of job related characteristics. For those who do, younger workers are preferred in aspects such as value for money, ability to deal with clients, ability to learn new skills and productivity/performance. On the other hand, older workers are preferred in aspects such as loyalty/low turnover, low absenteeism and maturity.
- (d) employers may attempt to save money by engaging in statistical age discrimination. This means that they screen out an individual from an employment opportunity on the assumption that he or she possesses certain traits which happen to coincide with old age, irrespective of whether the person actually possesses such traits; and
- (e) while there is little evidence of pure age discrimination by employers solely from personal prejudice, there seems to be some evidence of age discrimination by the market.

Mentioning the above, Mr Wong cautioned that while some evidence seemed to suggest the presence of age discrimination in employment, other evidence pointed to a different conclusion.

On the way ahead, Mr Wong said the Government was keeping an open mind on the preferred approach to deal with the issue.

He noted that the study had indicated that there were three possible broad options:

- (a) to retain the status quo, and take no particular Government measures other than to monitor the situation regularly;
- (b) to introduce age discrimination in employment legislation. In considering such legislation, it was necessary to bear in mind that it could not guarantee jobs, and might not be an effective means of changing public attitudes. Furthermore, legislation could introduce artificial impediments that hinder the free play of market forces, imposing rigidities on their operations and possibly also adding to the cost of doing business; and
- (c) a non-legislative option which could combine public education and self-regulation.

Mr Wong called on members of the public to study the consultation paper and forward their views to the Government by August 7.

They may write or fax to:

The Secretary for Education and Manpower  
Central Government Offices  
ninth floor, West Wing  
11 Ice House Street  
Hong Kong  
Fax 2868 5916

Comments may also be sent over the Internet to [embinfo@emb.gcn.gov.hk](mailto:embinfo@emb.gcn.gov.hk).

Copies of the consultation paper may be obtained from the district offices and the Labour Department's local employment service offices from Monday (June 10).

End

#### Labour Advisory Board held meeting in Geneva

\* \* \* \* \*

The Labour Advisory Board (LAB) had held a special meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, yesterday (Thursday) while attending the 83rd session of the International Labour Conference.

A proposal for extending the deadline for application for compensation under the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance was considered at the meeting which was chaired by Commissioner for Labour, Miss Jacqueline Willis, and attended by all 12 LAB members.

Under the ordinance, employees who have already left employment from noisy occupations on July 1 last year and who wish to apply for compensation have to make an application not later than June 30.

The Occupational Deafness Compensation Scheme (the scheme) which commenced operation in July 1995 is currently under review by a working group set up by the Labour Department.

In respect of the deadline for application, the working group recommended that it be extended by 12 months so as to allow time for potential applicants who, for one reason or another, might not be aware of the scheme.

LAB members noted that it was necessary to set a deadline for application as there would be difficulties in verifying the employment history of an applicant due to the lapse of time.

Members also noted that delays in making an application would make it difficult for an accurate assessment of hearing loss to be made as the audiological test results could be unduly distorted by the effect of old age on hearing.

After deliberation, the proposal to extend the deadline by 12 months to June 30, 1997, was accepted.

Another proposal which relates to the extension of the grace period under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (SDO) in connection with the Women and Young Persons (Industry) Regulations (WYP)(I) was also discussed.

The WYP(I) Regulations which provides protective restrictions on the employment of women in industry are considered incompatible with the provisions of SDO.

Under SDO, a one-year grace period is provided to allow time for amendments to be made to ordinances and regulations which are considered incompatible with the SDO.

LAB members were informed that the Labour Department had completed a review of the WYP(I) Regulations and was examining several options to effect amendment.

As the grace period is due to expire in July, the Labour Department recommends an extension of one year so as to allow time for consultations to be made on the options. The proposal was accepted.

At the meeting, members also considered four applications for importation of workers under the Supplementary Labour Scheme.

Having examined the cases, LAB supported two applications for importation of care home attendants and gardening workers respectively. Two other applications for bakers and care home attendants were rejected.

Speaking from Geneva, Miss Willis said it was befitting that LAB, which was a tripartite forum, should hold a special meeting on the occasion of the International Labour Conference.

It was particularly meaningful as one of the main discussion items of this year's conference was tripartite consultation on economic and social policy, she added.

Other items for discussion of the International Labour Conference included employment policy, home work and international labour standard. The Conference is attended by some 2,000 delegates from about 150 member countries of the International Labour Organisation.

End

Bilingual report on rights of the child published

\* \* \* \* \*

The bilingual version of the initial report on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in Hong Kong is now available to the public.

The report, submitted to the United Nations by the United Kingdom Government in February, was tabled in the Legislative Council on March 27.

It details measures adopted by the Hong Kong Government to give effect to the rights recognised in the Convention up to September 7 last year, the first anniversary of the extension of the Convention to Hong Kong.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child is expected to examine the report at its session in September to October this year.

Copies of the initial report are now available at various district offices and the Marketing Office of the Government Information Services, 17th floor, Siu On Centre, 176-192 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai.

Reference copies will also be distributed to libraries of the Urban Council and the Regional Council.

Interested parties can call 2835 1559 for free copies of the report.

End

Volume and price movements of external trade in March

\* \* \* \* \*

In the first three months of 1996, the volume of re-exports increased by 7.5% over the same period last year, while the volume of domestic exports decreased by 7.4%, 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 4.9%. Meanwhile, imports increased by 5.2% 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 1.2% and 1.8% respectively. Import prices increased by 1.4%.

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, recorded no significant change in the first three months of 1996 over the same period last year.

Comparing March 1996 with March 1995, the volume of re-exports decreased by 4.9%, while that of domestic exports decreased by 20%. Taken together, the volume of total exports decreased by 7.4%. Meanwhile, the volume of imports decreased by 1.0%.

Over the same period of comparison, the prices of re-exports and domestic exports increased by 0.7% and 1.8% respectively. Import prices increased marginally by 0.6%.

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

Comparing March 1996 with March 1995, the volume of re-exports of fuels and capital goods increased by 25% and 16% respectively.

On the other hand, the volume of consumer goods, foodstuffs and raw materials and semi-manufactures decreased by 16%, 12% and 1.7% respectively.

Over the same period of comparison, increases in the prices of re-exports were noted of fuels (+15%) and consumer goods (+1.6%).

On the other hand, the re-export price of capital goods, foodstuffs and raw materials and semi-manufactures decreased by 1.2%, 0.4% and 0.1% respectively.

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

Comparing March 1996 with March 1995, commodity group which recorded significant increase in volume of domestic exports included domestic electrical appliances (+67%).

On the other hand, the volume of domestic exports of footwear and textile made-ups and related articles decreased by 72% and 56% respectively.

Commodity groups which recorded increases in domestic export prices included metal ores and scrap (+7%); and metal manufactures (+6.9%).

On the other hand, the domestic export price of domestic electrical appliances and footwear decreased by 4.3% and 3.8% respectively.

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 decreased marginally by 0.6% in March 1996 compared with March 1995.

Significant decreases in the import volume were noted of vegetables; and tea and coffee. However increases were recorded in the import volume of wheat and flour; and cereals and cereal preparations other than rice, wheat and flour.

Over the same period of comparison, the import volume of consumer goods decreased by 13%.

Decreases in import volume were recorded in alcoholic beverages; and clothing. However, increases in the import volume were noted of tobacco manufactures; and household-type electrical appliances.

The import volume of raw materials and semi-manufactures increased by 3.4% in March 1996 compared with March 1995.

Increases in import volume were recorded in most of the raw materials and semi-manufactures. Significant increases were noted of base metal other than iron and steel; and thermionic, cold cathode or photo cathode valves and tubes, diodes, transistors etc and parts thereof. However, decreases in the import volume were noted of silk fabrics; and wool and other animal hair.

Imports of fuels decreased by 6.7% in volume in March 1996 compared with March 1995.

As regards capital goods, the import volume increased by 16% in March 1996 over March 1995.

Notable increases were recorded in the import volume of office machines; and industrial machinery, other than textile machinery and electrical machinery. The import volume of construction machinery however decreased.

Comparing March 1996 with March 1995, the import prices of most of the end-use categories increased : fuels (+8.3%); consumer goods (+2.3%); raw materials and semi-manufactures (+0.1%).

On the other hand, the import price of capital goods decreased by 1.9% while the import price of foodstuffs recorded no significant change.

Details of the above statistics are published in the March 1996 issue of the "Hong Kong Trade Index Numbers".

The report will be available on sale around June 11 at HK\$14 per copy at either the Government Publications Centre on the ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway; or the Publications Section of the Census and Statistics Department on the 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).

End

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

End-use category	Comparing MAR 1996 with MAR 1995			Comparing JAN-MAR 1996 with JAN-MAR 1995		
	% changes			% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Foodstuffs	-12.6	-0.4	-11.5	4.6	0.3	5.0
Consumer goods	-14.8	1.6	-16.3	4.1	1.9	1.9
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	-1.8	-0.1	-1.7	9.4	1.0	8.1
Fuels	43.4	14.9	25.0	29.3	14.7	16.0
Capital goods	10.9	-1.2	15.9	16.8	-0.6	20.7
ALL COMMODITIES	-5.3	0.7	-4.9	8.1	1.2	7.5

Table 2 : Changes in domestic exports by principal commodity group

Commodity group	Comparing MAR 1996 with MAR 1995			Comparing JAN-MAR 1996 with JAN-MAR 1995		
	% changes			% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Clothing	-33.5	2.4	-34.6	-5.1	2.4	-7.3
Textile fabrics	-18.5	1.8	-20.9	-3.2	1.1	-5.9
Textile yarn and thread	5.2	6.3	-0.3	6.9	8.0	-0.1
Textile made-ups and related articles	-57.1	-0.4	-56.5	-22.4	-0.5	-20.8
Radios of all kinds	-32.9	5.0	-40.8	45.5	6.2	22.1
Electronic components	-0.4	0.7	-2.6	-1.9	-0.3	-2.9
Footwear	-73.3	-3.8	-71.7	-51.8	-2.5	-50.7
Metal manufactures	-27.9	6.9	-32.6	-7.4	7.1	-13.9
Metal ores and scrap	-20.7	7.0	-22.6	-14.5	5.4	-14.6
Watches and clocks	-25.0	-0.2	-24.8	-8.5	-0.3	-7.9
Travel goods, handbags and similar articles	-29.8	3.7	-32.7	-2.1	3.5	-6.2
Domestic electrical appliances	57.2	-4.3	66.9	38.3	-3.2	44.3
ALL COMMODITIES	-18.5	1.8	-19.5	-6.0	1.8	-7.4

Table 3 : Changes in imports by end-use category

End-use category	Comparing MAR 1996 with MAR 1995			Comparing JAN-MAR 1996 with JAN-MAR 1995		
	% changes			% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Foodstuffs	-0.2	*	-0.6	4.6	1.1	3.1
Consumer goods	-10.6	2.3	-12.7	2.5	2.4	.0.1
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	2.1	0.1	3.4	6.0	1.1	5.6
Fuels	3.2	8.3	-6.7	24.6	8.3	14.9
Capital goods	13.6	-1.9	15.8	13.3	-0.4	14.5
ALL COMMODITIES	-0.7	0.6	-1.0	6.4	1.4	5.2

\* less than 0.05%

End

Yuen Long land use plans approved

\* \* \* \* \*

The Governor-in-Council has approved the Development Permission Area (DPA) plans for Tong Yan San Tsuen and Ping Shan, a spokesman for the Town Planning Board said today (Friday).

"The two plans will establish statutory land use frameworks to provide guidance for planning and to facilitate development control within the Tong Yan San Tsuen and Ping Shan areas in Yuen Long.

"The respective draft statutory outline zoning plan is being prepared and will be published to replace the approved DPA plan," he added.

The two approved plans (Nos DPA/YL-TYST/2 and DPA/YL-PS/2) are available for public inspection during normal office hours at:

- \* Planning Department 16th floor, Murray Building Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong;
- \* Tuen Mun and Yuen Long District Planning Office Level 11, Metroplaza Tower 1, 223 Hing Fong Road, Kwai Fong, New Territories; and
- \* Yuen Long District Office ground floor, Yuen Long District Office Building, 269 Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long, New Territories.

Copies of the plans are on sale at the Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong, and the Kowloon Map Sales Office, ground floor, 382 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

End

Conversion and extension works for schools

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for conversion and extension works including associated drainage to 10 existing aided schools.

Works will start in September for completion in August next year.

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

Tender offer will close at noon on July 5.

End

Draft Lam Tei and Yick Yuen Outline Zoning Plan published

\* \* \* \* \*

The Town Planning Board today (Friday) announced the publication of the draft Lam Tei and Yick Yuen Outline Zoning Plan (OZP).

"The rural OZP replaces the approved Development Permission Area (DPA) plan for Lam Tei and Yick Yuen in Tuen Mun District," a spokesman for the Board said.

"It indicates more definite and comprehensive land use zones to guide and control development in the area.

"Similar to the DPA plan, unauthorised developments within the OZP are subject to enforcement actions.

"The general planning intention of the draft OZP, which covers a total of about 534 hectares of land, will designate the Lam Tei and Yick Yuen area for sub-urban development.

"A local centre in Lam Tei which lies between the two existing urban centres of Tuen Mun New Town and Yuen Long Town has been planned to serve the local residents.

"For areas further away from these centres and from existing and planned infrastructure provisions, developments with less intensity will be envisaged."

On the plan, about 91 hectares of land have been zoned 'Village Type Development' and about 66 hectares as 'Residential (Groups B)', 'Residential (Group C)' and 'Residential (Group D)' for sub-urban developments including village housing and private residential developments.

To serve the needs of the local and district population, two sites of nine hectares and one hectare have been respectively zoned 'Government/Institution/Community' and 'Commercial'.

A site of about 4.6 hectares to the west of Fuk Hang Tsuen Road and north of Lam Tei Main Street has been zoned 'Comprehensive Development Area' to provide significant improvement to the environment and to enhance Lam Tei as a local centre.

Also, about seven hectares of land has been zoned 'Industrial (Group D)' to provide an opportunity for existing industrial uses to operate efficiently by improving and expanding as necessary in the designated area.

About 283 hectares of land has been zoned 'Green Belt' and 'Conservation Area' to define the limits of urban and sub-urban development areas and to retain the existing natural landscapes and topographical features in rural areas.

A 21.71-hectare site located to the north-west and south of San Hing Tsuen has been zoned 'Undetermined'.

The draft Lam Tei and Yick Yuen OZP (No S/TM-LTY/1) is available for public inspection until August 7 during normal office hours at:

- \* Planning Department 16th floor, Murray Building Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong;
- \* Tuen Mun and Yuen Long District Planning Office Level 11, Metroplaza Tower 1, 223 Hing Fong Road, Kwai Fong, New Territories; and
- \* Tuen Mun District Office floor, Tuen Mun Government Offices, 1 Tuen Hi Road, Tuen Mun, Territories.

Any person affected by the draft plan may submit written objection before August 7 to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Planning Department, 13th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong.

Copies of the draft plan are on sale at the Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong, and the Kowloon Map Sales Office, ground floor, 382 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

End

Draft So Kwun Wat Outline Zoning Plan published

\* \* \* \* \*

The Town Planning Board today (Friday) announced the publication of the draft So Kwun Wat Outline Zoning Plan (OZP).

The rural OZP, which replaces the approved Development Permission Area (DPA) plan for So Kwan Wat in Tuen Mun, will provide more definite and comprehensive land use zones to guide and control developments in the area, a spokesman for the board said.

"Similar to DPA plan, unauthorised developments within the OZP are subject to enforcement actions.

"The OZP, covering a total of about 476 hectares of land, aims at retaining the rural characteristics by preserving hill slopes and active agricultural land and facilitating environmental improvement and physical upgrading of the area.

"Sub-urban developments including private residential development and village housing in appropriate areas will be allowed," the spokesman said.

About five hectares of land have been zoned 'Residential (Group C)' to reflect existing and committed residential developments and to facilitate future sub-urban residential developments with ancillary supporting facilities.

Another 32 hectares of land have been zoned 'Village Type Development' to facilitate village expansion and to recognise the development rights of the indigenous villagers.

To serve the needs of the local and district population, 90 hectares of land have been zoned 'Government/Institution/Community' and another one hectare of land has been zoned 'Open Space'.

Two sites with a total area of about 13 hectares have been zoned 'Comprehensive Development Area' to provide significant improvement to the environment. One of the sites is situated to the north of Tuen Mun Road and to the west of Siu Lam Hospital while the other site is on the eastern side of Tai Lam Chung Nullah.

A substantial portion of land, about 308 hectares in total have been zoned 'Green Belt' to define the limits of urban and sub-urban development areas by natural features and to contain urban sprawl as well as to provide passive recreational outlets.

The draft So Kwun Wat OZP (No S/TM-SKW/1) is available for public inspection until August 7 during normal office hours at:

- \* Planning Department, 16th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong;
- \* Tuen Mun and Yuen Long District Planning Office, Level 11, Metroplaza Tower 1, 223 Hing Fong Road, Kwai Fong, New Territories; and
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End

### Eastern District Festival

\* \* \* \* \*

The Eastern District Board and residents organisations in the district will join hands to organise what they hope to be the most ambitious district festival ever.

The last Eastern District festival was held in 1987.

As the largest district board in the territory looking after one of the most populous urban areas, the board and representatives of the 590,000 residents will be pooling their resources to stage a programme of festival activities over a period of some six weeks starting from December 14 this year to January 26, 1997.

Apart from promoting the district's characteristics, it is hoped that the festival will at the same time help foster a sense of belonging among residents and a more harmonious atmosphere in the local community.

Highlights of the festival include a nine-day exposition at the Victoria Park to display the success of the industrial and manufacturing sectors in the District and a gala closing at the newly built Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground.

The 1996/97 Eastern District Festival Co-ordinating Committee is now inviting local groups to organise activities in support of the festival. A small grant will be given to help fund their proposed programmes after they have been assessed and approved by the Committee.

Interested local organisations are invited to apply to the Committee's Secretariat at 11th floor, Eastern Law Courts Building, 29 Tai On Street, Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong, before June 30.

Enquiries can be made by telephoning 2886 6514.

End

### Fatal traffic accidents drop to lowest level in 25 years

\* \* \* \* \*

The number of fatal traffic accidents has decreased markedly over the recent years and is now at its lowest level in 25 years, it was revealed at the Road Safety Council meeting on Wednesday (June 5).

The meeting, held at Police Headquarters in Arsenal Street, Wan Chai, on a bimonthly basis, was told that the number of fatal accidents between January and April this year was 66, a sharp 20.5% drop as compared with the same period in 1995.

"We are very encouraged by the figure. It shows that increased awareness, courtesy and care on the part of both drivers and pedestrians, in conjunction with the work of the Road Safety Council can make a difference in reducing the accident toll on our roads," a spokesman of the Council said.

"Since the Road Safety Council was formed in 1973, different concerned group such as the Road Safety Association, the Hong Kong Automobile Association and the Institute of Advanced Motorists have been working closely with government departments to create an environment with less traffic hazards.

"However, we should not be complacent about this encouraging drop in accidents. Traffic accident casualties are still too high. We will continue to explore other ways to disseminate road safety messages to all sectors of the community and to create a safer road environment for all."

For the coming year, the Road Safety Council will launch a campaign on pedestrian safety targeting at the elderly and the Chinese immigrants.

A sum of \$500,000 has been set aside for the publicity campaign which will be contracted out to an advertising agency.

There are about 580,000 elderly people aged 65 and above in Hong Kong. They are physically weak, very vulnerable to injuries while at the same time many are unaware of road safety rules and practices which could protect them.

The Council is also looking into ways to communicate with the Chinese immigrants and educate them on road users codes in Hong Kong.

The Road Safety Council was formed in 1973 to co-ordinate actions and develop proposals to prevent traffic accidents and provide advice on policies for consideration by the Transport Advisory Committee.

End

21-Gun Salute for Duke of Edinburgh's birthday

\* \* \* \* \*

The following is issued on behalf of the Joint Services Public Relations Staff:

To mark the birthday of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, the Royal Navy will fire a 21-Gun Salute from HMS Plover at precisely 12 pm on Monday (June 10), as she buoys up in Victoria Harbour.

When HMS Tamar moved from Prince of Wales Barracks to Stonecutters Island in 1993, gun salutes were fired from a site on the south shore of that island.

However, the site was unsatisfactory because it was invisible to the public and it has since been developed by preparatory work for the new naval base for the PLA Navy.

New saluting cannon were, therefore, brought out from the UK so that gun salutes could be fired from a sea-going warship, in full view of much of the city.

End

No post during holidays

\* \* \* \* \*

The Postmaster General, Mr. Robert Footman, announced today (Friday) that during the forthcoming public holidays to celebrate the Queen's Birthday from June 15 to 17 and Tuen Ng Festival on June 20, all post offices would be closed.

A special mail delivery will be provided on June 15, but there will be no delivery on June 16, 17 and 20.

End

Fresh water cut in Central

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Central will be temporarily suspended between 11 pm on Monday (June 10) to 6 am the following day to facilitate waste detection work on watermains.

The temporary suspension will affect:

- \* Odd Nos 3 to 9 and Nos 4 to 4A, Queen's Road Central;
- \* Nos 8 and 15, Cotton Tree Drive;
- \* Nos 10 and 12, Harcourt Road;
- \* No 2, Murray Road;
- \* Lambeth Walk;
- \* No 38, 66, and 88, Queensway;
- \* No 1, Garden Road; and
- \* Hong Kong Park.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

\*\*\*\*\*

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,679	0930	+279
Closing balance in the account	1,957	1000	+279
Change attributable to :		1100	+279
Money market activity	+278	1200	+278
LAF today	NIL	1500	+278
		1600	+278

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.4 \*\*+0.0\* 7.6.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.98	2 years	2805	6.30	100.23	6.26
1 month	5.06	3 years	3904	6.30	99.31	6.67
3 months	5.14	5 years	5103	6.75	98.43	7.27
6 months	5.28	7 years	7305	7.60	100.21	7.70
12 months	5.62	5 years	M502	7.30	99.75	7.50

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$14,482 million

Closed June 7, 1996

End