



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## HK-USA promotion travels on to California

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The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, and members of the HK-USA delegation arrived in Los Angeles from Dallas, Texas, on Saturday evening (June 8, US West coast time) to launch the third and final leg of the HK-USA promotion. The promotional tour had kicked off in New York at the beginning of the week.

The highlight of the weekend in Los Angeles was the opening of the Hong Kong Film Festival entitled "American Film Institute Tribute to Hong Kong Cinema" today (Sunday, June 9) at Paramount Studios in Hollywood. The festival, co-organised by the American Film Institute and the Hong Kong Motion Picture Industry Association, and supported by Mr Raymond Chow of Golden Harvest, presents eight movies to the American audience, with Stage Door (Hu-Du-Men) as the featured film for the opening production.

President of the American Film Institute, actor Charlton Heston, introducing the Chief Secretary, said movies were the international language and it is important to honour the Asian film community. "Hong Kong for some time has been a major centre of film production," Mr Heston said. "This creative exchange is very important for film makers. We are pleased to celebrate the international connection," he added.

Mrs Anson Chan told the audience that Hong Kong is the world's second largest exporter of films, second only to the USA itself. "Dubbed the 'Hollywood of the East' the territory has been responsible for titles such as "Farewell to My Concubine" and "Summer Snow" which have claimed top awards at prestigious international festivals. At the same time, other action adventures, like "Cannonball Run" and "Rumble in the Bronx" are proving box office smashes," Mrs Chan said.

The ceremony, attended by many members of the Hollywood film community, also featured appearances by actresses Josephine Siao and Anita Yuen and director Shu Kei. Other guests included Mr Raymond Chow of Golden Harvest, film directors John Woo, King Hu, Kirk Wong and Stanley Tong, and artists Chow Yun Fat, Jenny Woo, Dragonson Yin, Christy Chung and Lisa Lu. Screenwriter Raymond To, choreographer Bruce Law and producer Terence Chang were also present.

The programme in Los Angeles will continue on Monday, June 10, with several calls by Mrs Chan on business and civic leaders and a gala dinner to celebrate the Hong Kong-USA promotion in Los Angeles.

Prior to leaving Texas, Mrs Chan officiated at the first in a series of Hong Kong Trade Development Council fashion shows entitled "Hong Kong salutes Fashionable Dallas", held in conjunction with Market Week at the Dallas International Apparel Mart.

Models from both the US and Hong Kong presented the latest fashions and fashion accessories by Hong Kong designers and label manufacturers such as Walter Ma, Young Beat and City Slickers, as well as by Dallas companies offering the territory's fashions at the Apparel Mart during the week.

Welcoming Mrs Chan to the Dallas Fashion Week, the executive director of the Texas Department of Commerce Ms Brenda Arnett said that the State of Texas, which has the second largest fashion industry in the US, exported more than US \$1 billion worth of goods (including garments) to Hong Kong last year.

Mrs Chan said Hong Kong, once the workshop of the world's garment industry, is rapidly taking its place among the most famous international fashion centres.

"The territory's designers and label manufacturers now supply apparel to leading department stores and boutiques around the world," Mrs Chan said, adding that Hong Kong, with its unique East-West cultural blend, is fast gaining a reputation for creativity and original design.

The fashion shows concluded three days of Hong Kong celebration in Dallas, including a business seminar and luncheon, a gala dinner, a Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra concert and a film festival.

The promotion is supported by major businesses in Hong Kong, including Cathay Pacific Airways, Hong Kong Bank, Hutchison Whampoa Ltd, Marco Polo Hotels and the Sino Group.

End

Government committed to promote widest use of Internet

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The Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang said today (Monday) that the Government would do its best to maintain Hong Kong's position as a leading world services and financial centre by ensuring that Hong Kong business has every opportunity to move forward in Internet use.

Speaking at a Foreign Correspondents' Club luncheon, Mr Tsang said the Government was among the leaders among governments of major world economies in applying Internet technology.

"Our government is deeply 'into' Internet. 44 government branches, departments and communities are written up on the Government's World Wide Web Page, and many have set up their own independent pages linked to the Government's main page."

"This is the result of the Government's efforts to bring better services to our public and our clients world-wide, using up-to-date technology.

The Financial Secretary said it was, in comparative terms, reasonably cheap to provide the information service through the Internet, and to achieve an unrivalled level of transparency of Government activities generally.

He said the Government is looking at ways to further improve its service on the Internet.

"We have to remember that the very great majority of our customers - and often those in greatest need - don't have access to the Net."

"A revolution could take place in provision of Government services if we were in a position to accept input and questions through the Internet to the same extent that we can use the Net to put information out."

In doing so, Mr Tsang, said the Government would take into account the need to protect the security of personal information and the network capacity.

"I think it's important for the sake of public trust in us that we shouldn't encourage the public and business to entrust confidences to us until we can offer a strong assurance of security for their information."

"The system however is fast improving. I am sure that the day will come, not too far away, when we can feel comfortable about Internet security."

Regarding the infrastructure to support Internet services, Mr Tsang said Hong Kong boast one of the best telecommunications infrastructures in the world.

"Our telecommunications policies seek to ensure that our infrastructure continues to improve and anticipates developments such as the Internet."

"That is why we have as a matter of policy taken great strides in recent years in liberalising our telecommunication sector."

Mr Tsang said a consultation exercise is being conducted to see how best to structure prices for local telephone services in Hong Kong.

"This should let us see the way forward to providing an improved base for Internet services, both by the Government and by the private sector."

"We must start thinking about making Internet terminals available not only through schools and universities, but also libraries and public enquiry centres."

Internet terminals like ATM machines at street corners with links to Government information and services would also be a possible option, Mr Tsang said.

"I think there is room also for district organisations to become involved in providing access to Internet terminals and helping in disseminating information that their local communities want," he added.

Mr Tsang said the Government is also actively reviewing how to improve its support for the business sector.

"Hong Kong's trade in services is growing, and I can see a time when more and more companies see the benefits of doing business on the Internet."

They would need the assurance of security and an assurance that if they invest in the development of Internet-based business, Hong Kong's telecommunications network would be able to keep up with their demands, he said.

Mr Tsang said whilst the Government will need to overcome the challenges that lie ahead of the development of Internet, for the immediate term, he saw a very rapid increase in the Government's services to the public over the Internet.

"Already, we are experimenting to make Hong Kong's laws available on the net, to put consultation papers on the World Wide Web and to allow the public to down-load government standard forms from Internet sites."

"In the longer term, I believe that the difficulties we now anticipate with security and network capacity will be overcome."

End

Successful control of infectious diseases hard-earned: SHW

\* \* \* \* \*

Hong Kong's success in the control of infectious diseases is hard-earned, the Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok, said at the opening of the 7th International Congress for Infectious Diseases this (Monday) evening.

"This has been brought about by diligent and unrelenting efforts by people across many disciplines and sectors over a prolonged period of time," she said.

Mrs Fok noted that over the years, Hong Kong had witnessed significant improvements in the living environment brought about by an adequate supply of clean water and enhanced sanitation measures and the reinforcement of health surveillance through a group of capable, committed and hardworking health care workers.

Better education has also enabled the public to understand the benefits of a nutritious and healthy diet.

But this success is not possible without the healthy economic growth which has allowed Government to devote resources to these areas - the share of Government budget spent on health care has in fact increased from 11.8 per cent in 1991-92 to 13.8 per cent in 1996-97.

"Despite an achievement to date, we cannot afford to relax the struggle between man and microbes which is far from over," Mrs Fok warned, quoting AIDS and pulmonary tuberculosis as two examples.

The Secretary believed that the Congress, the first to be held in South East Asia, would provide a unique opportunity for experts from different countries to exchange views on latest developments in the field of infectious diseases, to re-establish professional contacts and to foster international collaboration.

End

#### Tai A Chau Detention Centre to close in September

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The Government announced today (Monday) that the Tai A Chau Detention Centre for Vietnamese migrants (VM) will be closed in September.

"As the VM population decreases, it is a logical step to consolidate the population into fewer camps under unified management of the Correctional Services Department (CSD)," a Government spokesman said.

"The current total VM population of 16,000 does not justify maintaining three camps."

"The annual management contract and related costs for maintaining Tai A Chau, now holding 5,600 VMs, amount to over \$55 million a year," he said.

The spokesman urged all the VMs to join the voluntary repatriation programme as soon as possible, certainly before June 30, the deadline for application for the US "Resettlement Opportunity for Vietnamese Returnees Scheme".

"Their only future lies in returning to Vietnam," he said.

The Tai A Chau population are all southern Vietnamese. They will be transferred to Whitehead Detention Centre in September.

In the meantime, northern VMs still in Whitehead in September will be moved to the High Island Detention Centre, and any remaining southern VMs in High Island will be transferred to Whitehead.

After the transfers, High Island Detention Centre will be used exclusively to accommodate northern VMs and Whitehead Detention Centre will be designated exclusively for southern VMs.

As announced by the Secretary for Security last month, security measures are being stepped up in Whitehead Detention Centre. These include reinforcing the perimeter fence, setting up a reinforced secure area, and demolishing certain structures to facilitate security operations. The works should be completed by August.

The Correctional Services Department will also beef up the manning of the detention centre.

Security at High Island Detention Centre will also be improved.

Noting that the Orderly Repatriation Programme is now conducted at a monthly rate of at least 600 and more VMs have volunteered to return, the spokesman said the camp population was expected to be reduced at a faster pace over the coming months.

Tai A Chau is an outlying island situated to the south-east of Lantau Island. The detention centre commenced operation in February 1991 with a capacity of 9,600. It once held a peak population of almost 9,700 in November 1991.

The Tai A Chau Centre is currently managed by Hong Kong Housing Services for Refugees, a non-profit making company which previously managed the Pillar Point Refugee Centre for the UNHCR.

"We are grateful to Hong Kong Housing Services for Refugees for their valuable assistance in handling the mass influx of VMs during the difficult times in 1991, and for managing Tai A Chau since it opened," the spokesman said.

End

### 199 VMs depart on orderly repatriation flight

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A group of 199 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) returned by air to Hanoi, Vietnam, today (Monday) on the 40th flight under the Orderly Repatriation Programme (ORP).

All of the returnees, comprising 97 men, 50 women, 24 boys and 28 girls, are from Central and South Vietnam.

The majority of them arrived in Hong Kong in 1991, with the remaining in 1989 and 1990.

The group brought to 3,328 the total number repatriated on ORP flights since November 1991.

End

### Monitors' Report submitted to CS

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The monitors appointed to observe the Orderly Repatriation Programme operation this (Monday) morning have submitted their report to the Chief Secretary.

The two monitors comprised a non-official Justice of the Peace, Mr Chow Chun-fai; and a representative from a non-governmental organisation, Ms Madeleine Slavick from Oxfam.

End

### Public consultation sessions on special education report

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The Board of Education Sub-committee on Special Education has completed a report on the review of local special education.

The report, entitled Report of the Sub-committee on Special Education, offers 70 improvement recommendations, covering 10 areas in special education.

Public consultations are now under way.

Two public consultation sessions will be conducted on June 12 (Wednesday) at the Hall, Grantham Campus of the Hong Kong Institute of Education at 42 Gascoigne Road, Kowloon, and June 13 (Thursday) at Room G01, Hong Kong Teachers' Centre at 4 Pak Fuk Road, North Point, respectively. Both sessions will be held between 6 pm and 8 pm.

Presenting at the consultation sessions to hear views and suggestions will be Dr Tam Man-kwan, chairman of the Board of Education, and Professor Leslie Lo, chairman of the Sub-committee on Special Education.

School sponsors, serving school principals and teachers, practitioners in special education sector and related fields, and members of the public are invited to attend to give views and suggestions.

Copies of the report and the executive summary are being distributed at the Education Department's Reception Counter on the 10th floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai.

In addition, the Board of Education wishes to remind the public to submit their views and suggestions to Mrs Fanny Lam, the Board Secretary, at Room 1123, Education Department Headquarters, Wu Chung House, on or before July 8, 1996 (Monday).

Enquires about the consultation sessions may be directed to Mrs Mabel Mak, Senior Executive Officer on 2892 5793.

End

Fund for recreation invites applications for grants

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The Sir David Trench Fund Committee is inviting applications for grants under its "1996 Recreation and Sports Activities for People in Employment" scheme.

The scheme aims to provide financial assistance to organisations for the purchase of equipment or instruments to encourage people in employment to take up recreational and sports activities.

Applicants must be registered trade unions or non-profit making bodies registered under the Societies Ordinance or the Companies Ordinance.

Application forms are obtainable from the Sir David Trench Fund Committee Secretariat at the Broadcasting, Culture and Sport Branch, Room 4015, 40th floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai. They are also available at the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the Social Welfare Department, and the District Offices of the Home Affairs Department.

Completed application forms should be sent to the Secretariat on or before August 31 this year. Further enquiries can be made on 2594 5660.

End

Glimpses of the "old" through the eyes of the "young"

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Thirty-nine winning entries of a students' drawing competition on Hong Kong's historical monuments are now on display at an exhibition at the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) of the Broadcasting, Culture and Sport Branch until August 19.

The competition, which was organised as part of the School Heritage Festival organised by the AMO and the Education Department in March this year, attracted more than 830 entries from primary and secondary students.

The drawings covered Chinese and Western historical buildings and were portrayed in different drawing material such as acrylic, water colour, Chinese ink, poster colour and crayon.

The winning entries fully demonstrate the participants' appreciation and concern of the local cultural heritage. Some are also accompanied by a brief introduction by the artists to give a better understanding of the source of inspiration.

The exhibition is open to the public at the gallery of AMO at 136 Nathan Road, Kowloon, between 9.30 am and 5 pm from Mondays to Saturdays, except for Tuesdays. The opening hours on Sundays and public holidays are between 1 pm and 5 pm.

Meanwhile, to complement the exhibition, the AMO will also organise a series of outdoor drawing tours to selected historical monuments for students and families on Saturdays between June 29 and August 3.

Places to be visited include the former Kowloon British School, Marine Police Headquarters, Old Supreme Court, Flagstaff House and Royal Observatory. Details can be obtained on 2721 2326.

End

### 35 new building plans approved in April

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The Buildings Department approved 35 building plans in April this year.

Of the plans, 11 are for Hong Kong Island, seven for Kowloon and 17 for the New Territories.

The approved plans include 10 for apartment and apartment/commercial developments, nine for commercial developments, 10 for factory and industrial developments, and six for community services developments.

In the same month, consent was given for work to start on 42 building projects, which involve 99,094 square metres of usable domestic floor area and 84,883 square metres of usable non-domestic floor area.

During the same period, the Department also issued 33 Occupation Permits - seven for Hong Kong Island, four for Kowloon and 22 for the New Territories.

Of the buildings certified for occupation in the month, the usable floor areas for domestic and non-domestic uses are 130,935 square metres and 92,354 square metres respectively.

The declared cost of new buildings completed in the month totalled about \$3,006 million.

In addition, 24 demolition consents involving 50 buildings and structures were issued.

The Buildings Department's Control and Enforcement Division received 1,017 complaints of unauthorised building works, and issued 340 Removal Orders on unauthorised works.

End

### Overseas United Kingdom electors

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Forms and explanatory leaflets for registration as an overseas elector in UK Parliamentary and European Parliamentary Elections may be obtained from the Hong Kong Immigration Department, a spokesman for the department announced today (Monday).

"British citizens living in Hong Kong may contact the Information Office of the Immigration Department on second floor, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong by writing or in person to obtain the forms and explanatory leaflets," he said.

Under the Representation of the People Act of 1989, the qualifying period for the right to vote for people living abroad has been extended from five to twenty years.

That means if a British citizen left the UK as long ago as October 1976, he can still vote. He is no longer required to declare an intention to return to the UK and the vote will be cast in the constituency in which he or his family were registered before leaving the UK.

People who left the UK before they were old enough to be included on the Electoral Register may register as overseas electors.

"In order to qualify, potential electors will have to fill in an application form and return it direct to their Electoral Registration Office by October 10, 1996 (September 15 if they were previously residents in Northern Ireland)," the spokesman reminded.

He also appealed to British citizens for assistance in informing anyone they know living abroad about this.

End

### Arrangements for holiday clinic service

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The Department of Health announced today (Monday) that eight general out-patient clinics would be open from 9 am to 1 pm on June 16 (Sunday) and June 17, which is the Monday following the Queen's Birthday.

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 the Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen (June 15) and on Tuen Ng Festival (June 20).

All other general out-patient and evening clinics will be closed during the four days of holidays.

End

Fresh water cut in Tai Po

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Tai Po market will be suspended from 11 pm on Thursday (June 13) to 6 am the following day to facilitate waste detection work on watermains.

The suspension will affect all premises bounded by Kwong Fuk Road, Plover Cove Road, Tung Cheong Street and Po Yick Street.

End

Water storage figure

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Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 85.2 per cent of capacity or 499.268 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 368.44 million cubic metres of water, representing 62.9 per cent of capacity.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

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Tender date	10 June 1996
Paper on offer	EF notes
Issue number	5106
Issue date	11 June 1996
Maturity date	11 June 2001
Coupon	7.23 PCT
Amount applied	HK\$1,832 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$500 MN
Average price accepted (yield)	99.48 (7.49 PCT)
Lowest price accepted (yield)	99.48 (7.49 PCT)
Pro rata ratio	About 50 PCT
Average tender price (yield)	99.40 (7.51 PCT)

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,867	0930	+97
Closing balance in the account	1,860	1000	+97
Change attributable to :		1100	+93
Money market activity	+93	1200	+93
LAF today	-100	1500	+93
		1600	+93

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.5 \*+0.0\* 10.6.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.12	2 years	2805	6.30	99.88	6.46
1 month	5.17	3 years	3904	6.30	98.89	6.84
3 months	5.28	5 years	5103	6.75	97.84	7.42
6 months	5.49	7 years	7305	7.60	99.59	7.82
12 months	5.80	5 years	M502	7.30	99.19	7.66

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$25,112 million

Closed June 10, 1996

End