



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Thursday, April 13, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
FS's transcript	1
Resumption of vehicle holding area in Kwai Chung	3
Establishment of marine sanctuary	4
Financial assistance to full-time students	6
Transcript of CS's media session	8
Two ACP contracts awarded	9
Six Queen's Counsel appointed	9
Promotion of services study completed	11
Joint operation to flush out illegal immigrants	12
Board amends Mong Kok Outline Zoning Plan	13
New road proposed for village flood protection works	15

/Reclamation at

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Reclamation at Tai O endorsed	16
Submarine pipeline proposed for Yim Tim Tsai	16
Tenders invited for two architectural projects	17
Air Quality Report for March	18
Prequalification of tenderers for Hung Hom road works	19
CS visits Home Affairs Department and Sai Kung	20
NationsBank, N.A. (Carolinas) granted licence	21
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	21

FS's transcript

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Following is the transcript of the Financial Secretary, Sir Hamish Macleod, at a media session on his return at Lok Ma Chau today (Thursday):

We have had a very good visit over here, really, catching up on developments and infrastructure: the port, the airport, of course the stock exchange - we had a particular interest in that; and also, actually, now just discussing the question of border crossing procedures. There is a clear awareness on the Chinese side as well as our side that things need to be speeded up. Really, the pressure of numbers is just growing all the time and they, apparently, have a number of ideas on how to speed the whole system up - computerisation and so on, so I think that is encouraging.

The other thing that struck me, not having been to this area for four years, the pace of building is still going on at a tremendous speed, whether you are talking about actual residential, commercial or, of course, highways; not just the famous super highway but a number of other new road links, either under construction or being planned.

So it is useful to have these exchanges, really, just to learn from each other what is going on or what is planned, what problems are foreseen.

The airport, too, I must say is a success story in the sense that the volume of passengers is already up to about, I think, one-fifth the size of Kai Tak, which is a pretty fast expansion in a relatively short period. So, I think very useful for us and I hope very useful for the Shenzhen officials that we met.

Any questions?

Question: Talking about the problems foreseen(inaudible)...?

FS: We were not really mainly talking about problems, although I think the one which clearly was in their minds as well as ours was the one I mentioned earlier, on speeding up border crossing. I think there are pressures on all of us from the business community, from tourists, from lorry-drivers and all the rest of it, to try and find some solutions to this problem. I am told at the moment, for instance, at this crossing, coming across from the other side, a lorry probably has to take about an hour - it depends what time of day of course. That is a very long time and has an economic cost for Shenzhen and for Hong Kong. So there is a clear awareness that something has to be done on that.

Question: We've heard some talk recently about possibly someone taking money to allow people through ... foot passengers, train passengers. Was there any talk mentioned about that, whether they were ...?

FS: No, we didn't discuss that. They were certainly telling us some of the things that they have done and some of the things that they are thinking of doing, they're planning to do, in terms of computerisation, in terms of training, in terms of streamlining procedures. And of course we are very ready to co-operate with advice or in any other way to help that process.

Question: Any talk about some of these infrastructure projects that will be straddling 1997, as far as balancing the funding, any more discussion on that?

FS: No, no, we weren't talking about that, no.

Question: Did the Chinese officials talk about something on the Economic Zone, the proposed Economic Zone in the delta area, and what role can Hong Kong play in it?

FS: No. We were really here dealing very specifically with Shenzhen and the particular projects that I have just talked about. I actually asked to see those projects, those are the ones that I have an interest in. Because obviously, when we are planning our own expansion, we want to have a clear idea of the direction of port and airport development here. I think, on the airport, it was confirmed that the airport here is very much a domestic airport. The number of international flights is quite small, so it really complements the role of Hong Kong.

Question: Any talks about the air-traffic control system and how that's going to work out?

FS: We didn't on this occasion, no, talk about it. It's not really my particular area, so we didn't talk about that.

Question: How about Yantian? Is it doing as good as predicted?

FS: I don't know if it is doing as well as predicted because I don't know what the prediction was but it is obviously in the very early stages. It's quite quiet, but has enormous scope for expansion in the sense that the land set aside, both for the actual berths and for the back-up areas, is huge. And it is deep water, so it has, I think, quite a lot of potential. They're going to have, of course, some of the same problems that we've got in terms of getting access by road and later by rail. They have got a rail link but at the moment it's the road link which matters. But they seem quite confident. The main partner, of course, is Hong Kong, is Hutchison, and they seem quite confident on the future of that port. But it is, at the moment, of course, very small. It has potential.

Thank you very much. Thank you.

End/Thursday, April 13, 1995

Resumption of vehicle holding area in Kwai Chung

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In response to press enquiries in connection with a slow drive by container truck drivers at the Kwai Chung container port today, a spokesman for the Transport Department said the truck drivers were well aware that they had to leave the site in question (Site M) upon the availability of a new container vehicle park at Stonecutter's Island which was opened on January 1, this year.

The spokesman said Site M has always been used as an emergency vehicle holding area to relieve traffic congestion at the Kwai Chung container port.

The site is essential in relieving the lock-up of traffic queues along Container Port Road by providing a temporary off-street accommodation.

In September last year, when container vehicle parks on Tsing Yi Island were closed to make way for Airport Projects, a group of container truck drivers, led by the Chairman of the Container Transportation Employees General Union (CTEGU), claimed they could not secure sufficient parking spaces in the existing and new parking lots and approached the District Lands Officer/Kwai Tsing for assistance.

After a meeting with the Union and taking into consideration that the loss of parking spaces might cause traffic congestion in the container port area and might delay the taking over of the container vehicle parks for the critical Airport Projects, the Government agreed with the Union that Site M would be made available for free parking of container trucks temporarily until a new site on Stonecutter's Island site was available.

However, when the new container vehicle park at Stonecutter's Island was opened on January 1 this year, the container truck drivers refused to leave Site M as promised despite written reminder from the Transport Department. They claimed that the Government should have given the Union more weight when the new vehicle park at Stonecutter's Island was tendered, and that the new operator at the Stonecutter's Vehicle Park was letting out parking spaces in batches of 2 or 3 instead of individual parking spaces.

In response, the Transport Department successfully arranged with the operator of the Stonecutter's Vehicle Park so that the terms of rental could meet the Union's requests. This should have been able to provide some parking spaces for CTEGU's members. In addition, in March this year, the CTEGU has successfully tendered a parking lot in Kwai Chung which can accommodate about 40 container vehicles.

Meanwhile, drivers continued to occupy Site M, despite the earlier agreement to move out by November 1, 1994 and despite the efforts made to facilitate parking arrangements elsewhere. Resumption of Site M therefore has to be initiated so that it can be restored back as an emergency vehicle holding area before the typhoon season begins when the holding area will be used more frequently.

The spokesman appeals to the Union members concerned to act reasonably in pursuing their course and avoid causing inconvenience to other road users.

End/Thursday, April 13, 1995

Establishment of marine sanctuary

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The Government today (Thursday) confirmed its intention to seek the early establishment of a marine sanctuary for dolphins in the waters of western Hong Kong.

This was one of the detailed conditions set down for Government authorising the construction of a temporary aviation fuel receiving facility at Sha Chau to serve the new airport, announced in today's Gazette.

The official notice said the Governor-in-Council had authorised works for the facility at Sha Chau under the Foreshore and Sea-Bed (Reclamations) Ordinance, subject to a number of conditions.

The area covered is 319.5 hectares of foreshore and sea-bed comprising an area near Sha Chau for the construction of an offshore fuel receiving facility and a strip of sea-bed for two buried pipelines and a submarine power cable to connect the facility to the new airport.

"The conditions set down include the requirement that the construction of a permanent aviation fuel pipeline to the replacement airport be carried out as speedily as possible," a government spokesman said.

"Once the permanent pipeline is completed, the temporary aviation fuel receiving facility will be used only as an emergency back-up."

The Government will create, monitor and enforce a marine sanctuary for dolphins in the area of Sha Chau and nearby Lung Kwu Chau and it will implement an artificial reef programme within the sanctuary.

In addition, all the practicable environmental mitigation measures recommended by the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report on the proposed fuel facility, and by the Provisional Airport Authority's own cetacean expert, will be implemented by the Authority or other parties under its supervision.

Today's gazettal of approval for the project follows extensive consultations with environmental and other groups, including the Advisory Council on the Environment, the Airport Consultative Committee, the Legislative Council's Panel on Environmental Affairs and consideration by the Executive Council.

Meanwhile, the notice of authorisation and the plan relating to the undertaking can be seen on the notice boards at the following locations:-

- * Tung Chung Rural Committee Office;
- * Ma Tau Wan, Tung Chung;
- * Tuen Mun Rural Committee;
- * Tai O Rural Committee;
- * Sha Lo Wan Village Office;
- * San Tau Village; and
- * San Tau Village Office.

The plan can also be seen at the Lands Department's Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road; the Island District Office, 20th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central; and the Tuen Mun District Office, second floor, Tuen Mun Government Offices, 1 Tuen Hi Road, Tuen Mun.

Any person who considers that his interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and sea-bed involved will be affected, may submit a written claim for compensation to the Director of Lands on or before April 13, 1996.

He should state in his submission the sum of money that he is willing to accept in full and final settlement of his claim and submit particulars to substantiate his claim.

End/Thursday, April 13, 1995

Financial assistance to full-time students

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The Student Financial Assistance Agency (SFAA) which administers the Government's Local Student Finance Scheme (LSFS) today (Thursday) announced the arrangements for applications in respect of the 1995-96 academic year.

The LSFS is a means-tested scheme, which provides financial assistance in the form of grant and /or loan to needy students attending full-time courses at the City University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Baptist University, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the Lingnan College, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Technical College (Chai Wan), the Hong Kong Technical College (Tsing Yi), the Prince Philip Dental Hospital (for students studying the course leading to Diploma in Dental Technology only), and the Hong Kong Institute of Education (for students studying full-time pre-service two-year or three-year course).

Applicants must either have the right of abode in Hong Kong or have resided or have had their homes in Hong Kong continuously for at least three years immediately prior to the commencement of their courses.

Students should submit their applications to the SFAA via their respective institutions. Applicants whose siblings are also applying for the LSFS (1995-96) at the same time should hand in their applications together with those of their siblings to his/her institution or the institution of his/her sibling.

Current students may obtain application forms from their respective institutions. Prospective students who satisfy the entrance requirements of, and have applied for admission to the University of Hong Kong may obtain application forms from the said institution on production of the result slips of their Advanced Level Examination.

They should, however, submit their applications only after they have been offered admission.

New students admitted by the City University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Baptist University, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the Lingnan College, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the Hong Kong Technical College (Chai Wan) and the Hong Kong Technical College (Tsing Yi), the Prince Philip Dental Hospital and the Hong Kong Institute of Education may obtain application forms from the institutions concerned at the time of registration.

Completed applications should be returned to the applicant's or his/her sibling's (for sibling cases) institution before the deadline as specified below:

Current students

: April 26, 1995

(The deadline for current students of the Hong Kong Institute of Education is June 1, 1995)

New students

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology : September 15, 1995

Hong Kong Baptist University : September 22, 1995

City University of Hong Kong/Hong Kong Polytechnic University/Lingnan College : October 6, 1995

Prince Philip Dental Hospital : October 18, 1995

Chinese University of Hong Kong : the second Friday after the commencement of the first school term (1995-96)

University of Hong Kong : 21 days from the date of offer of admission

Hong Kong Technical College (Chai Wan)/
Hong Kong Technical College (Tsing Yi) : October 25, 1995

Hong Kong Institute of Education : deadline will be announced in due course via the respective campuses

For postgraduate students newly enrolled to their courses in 1995-96 : the deadline is three months from the date of registration (in any case not later than the end of February 1996)

Applicants are advised that they should make sure that all supporting documents are attached to their application forms. Applications not duly completed or without full set of supporting documentary proofs would be referred back to the applicants concerned for completion.

If necessary, the applicant and/or an adult member of his/her household who is fully aware of the family's circumstances will be invited to attend an interview at the SFAA to clarify information reported in the application.

The Agency's spokesman, however, warned that any wilful misrepresentation or omission of information in the applications may lead to disqualification and court proceedings.

As from the 1995-96 academic year, an Extended Loan Scheme (ELS) will be established as an additional component of the LSFS to help those applicants who marginally fail the means test and those successful applicants with a low level of financial assistance. The ceiling of the ELS will be \$15,000 for the 1995-96 academic year.

Enquiries should be directed to the SFAA at ninth floor, National Mutual Centre, 151 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong, or on 2802 1666.

End/Thursday, April 13, 1995

Transcript of CS's media session

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The following is a transcript of the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, speaking to the media after visiting Tsuenk Kwan O District this (Thursday) afternoon:

Question: I probably ask you the same question...

CS: I'll say, first of all, it is quite a normal development that in the years to come, you'll get people retiring, for whatever reasons, largely for personal reasons. And you might get the odd individuals deciding they want to have a change of environment or go to another job. I don't think this in itself is anything very surprising. And, we are confident that we are giving younger officers every opportunity to be trained, to get exposure and a variety of experience. And in particular those whom we have appointed to succeed policy secretaries retiring in the next few months, we are fully confident that they will be more than able to handle the job. Between them, they have a great deal of experience and they are all very capable people.

Question: Do you think it is a rather large number all at once?

CS: No, not at all.

End/Thursday, April 13, 1995

Two ACP contracts awarded

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The Government has awarded two contracts under the Airport Core Programme (ACP).

The first contract, valued at \$12.5 million, was awarded by the Royal Observatory to Radian Corporation of the United States of America for the provision of two wind profilers for the new airport at Chek Lap Kok.

The two wind profilers will be integrated with the Operational Windshear Warning System to detect topographically-induced windshear and turbulence.

The second contract, valued at \$8.9 million, was awarded by the Architectural Services Department to the China State Construction Engineering Corporation.

The contract included design and construction of piled foundation for a district police station in Tung Chung under the Tung Chung Development Phase I.

End/Thursday, April 13, 1995

Six Queen's Counsel appointed

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The Chief Justice, Sir Ti Liang Yang, is pleased to announce that the Queen has appointed Mr Patrick Fung Pak-tung, Mr Peter Van Tu Nguyen, Mr John H N Bleach, Mr William D Stone, Mr Benjamin Yu and Mr Peter W Garland as Her Majesty's Counsel for Hong Kong.

A ceremony will be held in No. 1 Court of the Supreme Court at 10 am on April 29 (Saturday), to call within the Bar the six new Queen's Counsel. The Court, which will include members of the Bench at all levels, will be presided by the Chief Justice, Sir Ti Liang Yang.

Mr Patrick Fung, aged 49, was called to the English Bar in 1968 and admitted to the Hong Kong Bar in 1970. He has since been in practice in Hong Kong. Mr Fung's field covers commercial, common law and chancery cases, especially real property, trust and probate work. He served as a Deputy District Judge for a brief period in 1980.

Mr Fung was Secretary of the Hong Kong Bar Association in 1975. He was also a member of the Performing Right Tribunal in 1980-91, the Air Transport Licensing Authority in 1981-87 and Law Reform Commission's Sub-committee on Unfair Contract Terms in 1983-86. He has been a member of the Barristers Disciplinary Tribunal Panel since March 1993. He has also been a member of the Listing Committee of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and a member of its Working Party on Corporate Governance since November last year.

Mr Peter Nguyen, aged 51, was called to the English Bar in 1970 and admitted to the Hong Kong Bar in 1974. Mr Nguyen served in the Attorney General's Chambers as a Crown Counsel between September 1970 and November 1974. He entered private practice in Hong Kong afterwards, specialising in criminal cases. He was appointed Director of Public Prosecutions in July last year.

Mr Nguyen served on the Bar Committee in 1984 and sat twice on Committees of Inquiry appointed by the Chief Justice under the Legal Practitioners Ordinance. From 1986 to 1988 he was on the Law Reform Commission's Subcommittee on Bail in Criminal Proceedings. He also served as a member of the Bar's Special Committee on the Future of the Legal Profession in 1989.

Mr John Bleach, aged 42, was called to the English Bar in 1974 and was admitted to the Hong Kong Bar in 1975. He has since been in practice in Hong Kong. He deals mainly with commercial and common law cases.

Mr Bleach has been actively involved over the past five years in the work of the Law Society in an advisory capacity and on disciplinary proceedings.

Mr William Stone, aged 49, was called to the English Bar in 1976 and admitted to the Hong Kong Bar in the same year. He was a lecturer at the University of Hong Kong between 1971 and 1978 before starting his full-time practice here. He is principally engaged in commercial law, admiralty and construction cases.

Mr Stone is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and has been Chairman of the Buildings Appeal Tribunal since 1993.

Mr Benjamin Yu, aged 38, was admitted to the Hong Kong Bar in 1979 and has since been in practice here. He specialises in commercial, common law, and chancery cases.

Mr Yu was previously Secretary and Member of the Bar Council. He is currently an honorary lecturer in the Department of Professional Legal Education of the Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong.

Mr Peter Garland, aged 40, was called to the English Bar in 1978 and admitted to the Hong Kong Bar in 1982. He has since been in practice in Hong Kong. His practice is largely in the intellectual property field, with patents, copyright, trade marks and passing off forming the bulk of his work.

End/Thursday, April 13, 1995

Promotion of services study completed

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A major consultancy study which was completed today (Thursday) suggests Hong Kong's thriving services would benefit from additional, concerted promotional efforts led by the Government.

In the over 100 page report prepared by KPMG Management Consulting Limited, the consultant finds a strong case for pursuing a cross-sectoral approach to emphasise Hong Kong's unique position as an international class, multi-faceted service centre serving the Asia Pacific Region.

The commissioning of the study by the Government in December last year reflects the growing importance of Hong Kong's services industry, and the Government's recognition that a more vigorous approach towards overseas promotion of trade in services is called for.

Up to now, the Government's role in promoting trade in services has been rather modest. The Government has mainly confined its role to the promotion of trade in goods, through the good work of the Trade Development Council.

The consultant has identified three main service sector groupings: trade and transport services; financial and business services; and media, advertising, marketing and communications services, as forming a sound framework for the cross-sectoral promotion effort.

The consultant has also concluded that the most cost-effective organisational option for undertaking further promotion of Hong Kong services overseas would be to extend the remit of the Trade Development Council to cover promotion of Hong Kong services.

The Government will consult the business community and in particular the services industry on the recommendations of the consultant after the Easter holidays. It is expected that the consultation period would last until the end of May.

"We would consider carefully the consultancy report and take into account the views expressed during the consultations before deciding on the best way forward," said a spokesman from the Trade and Industry Branch, which has been overseeing the conduct of the consultancy study.

End/ Thursday, April 13, 1995

Joint operation to flush out illegal immigrants

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A territory-wide operation against illegal immigration jointly mounted by the Police, Immigration Department and Labour Department has resulted in the arrests of 107 people.

The operation was part of the Government's continuous effort to flush out illegal immigrants.

The 107 suspected illegal immigrants arrested by the Police had been referred to the Immigration Department. Those found to be illegal immigrants will be repatriated.

A Government spokesman reiterated today (Thursday) that there was no question of any amnesty for illegal immigrants.

"Our latest operation should drive home the point that there will be no change to this policy. Anyone foolish enough to believe otherwise is only cheating oneself," he said.

The spokesman stressed that apart from continuous checks throughout the territory, there was no let-up in anti-illegal immigration efforts at the border.

"A high state of vigilance will continue to be maintained by the Police and the security forces both at the land and sea borders," he said.

During the joint operation, which began at 5 am yesterday (Wednesday) and ended at 5 am today, the Police stepped up their identification spot checks in public places and carried out checks at suspicious locations throughout the territory.

As a result, a total of 25,457 persons, 2,587 vehicles and 447 vessels were stopped for identification checks.

During the operation, immigration investigators visited a total of 24 residential addresses and business establishments and arrested 21 suspected immigration offenders.

Among the 21 arrestees, there were 16 women and five men aged between 18 and 51, of whom four were Two Way Permit holders, two were illegal immigrants from China, seven were foreign domestic helpers, one was an imported worker and the remaining seven were Hong Kong residents.

All the Two Way Permit holders, foreign domestic helpers and imported workers were arrested at places of work. They were suspected to have taken up illegal employment or overstayed in Hong Kong. Six Hong Kong residents were suspected of being employers of the arrestees and the remaining one local resident was a suspected aider and abettor.

On the labour front, inspectors of the Labour Department visited 2,000 establishments to weed out any illegal immigrants who might be working there and to check that employers fulfilled their legal obligation of keeping proper records of their employees.

A total of 5,643 employees had their proof of identity checked and 12 establishments were found not able to provide a record of employees for inspection.

The spokesman reminded employers that they could be fined up to \$250,000 and jailed for up to three years if they were found to be employing illegal immigrants.

End/Thursday, April 13, 1995

Board amends Mong Kok Outline Zoning Plan

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The Town Planning Board today (Thursday) announced amendments to the draft Mong Kok Outline Zoning Plan (No. S/K3/8).

An area of about 0.19 hectare to the east of an existing "Government/Institution/Community" ("GIC") site at the junction of Prince Edward Road West and Sai Yee Street has been rezoned from "GIC" to "Other Specified Uses" annotated "Railway Station Development".

The site has been vested in the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC) for railway purpose under the KCRC Ordinance and will form an integral part of a proposed hotel cum office/commercial development, including a social centre for the elderly.

Another amendment is to rezone an area of about 0.29 hectare at the junction of Fuk Tsun Street and Walnut Street from "Open Space" ("O") to "GIC" to facilitate the commencement of work of the proposed Tai Kok Tsui Urban Council (UC) Complex in mid-1995.

The UC complex will provide facilities including a mini-library, a leisure centre which comprises an indoor leisure pool, sports activities rooms and indoor sports arena.

To swap with the "GIC" site at Fuk Tsun Street and Walnut Street, an area of about 0.28 hectare at the junction of Tai Kok Tsui Road and Ivy Street, which is the existing Tai Kok Tsui Temporary Market, has been rezoned from "GIC" to "O".

The swapping of the two sites will facilitate the construction of the UC complex without causing disruption to the Tai Kok Tsui Temporary Market.

The amendment plan (No. S/K3/9) is available for public inspection until May 4 at:

- * Planning Department,
16th floor, Murray Building,
Garden Road,
Hong Kong;
- * Kowloon District Planning Office,
11th floor, Leighton Centre,
77 Leighton Road,
Hong Kong; and
- * Yau Tsim Mong District Office,
ground floor, Mong Kok Government Offices,
30 Luen Wan Street, Mong Kok,
Kowloon.

Any person affected by the amendment plan may submit written objection to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Planning Department, 13th floor, Murray Building, before May 4.

Copies of the draft plan can be bought at the Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, and the Kowloon Map Sales Office, ground floor, 382 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

End/Thursday, April 13, 1995

New road proposed for village flood protection works

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The Territory Development Department has proposed building a new road in Pok Wai, Yuen Long, for local pedestrian access and maintenance of village flood protection facilities.

During the construction period, some existing tracks or footpaths will be closed, but alternative access will be maintained.

A notice about the proposed works was gazetted today (Thursday) and the plan of the proposed undertaking can be seen at:

- * The Public Enquiry Service Centre of the Central and Western District Office, Ground Floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central;
- * The Yuen Long District Lands Office, 9th to 11th floors, Yuen Long Government Offices and Tai Kiu Market, 2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long, New Territories; and
- * The Yuen Long District Office, Yuen Long District Branch Offices Building, 269 Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long, New Territories.

Any person wishing to object to the proposal should write to the Secretary for Transport, central Government Offices, East Wing, second floor, Lower Albert Road, not later than June 12, describing his interest and manner in which he will be affected.

End/Thursday, April 13, 1995

Reclamation at Tai O endorsed

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The Governor-in-Council has authorised the Territory Development Department to proceed with reclamation at Tai O, Lantau Island, to provide land for a sewage pumping station.

The reclamation will be carried out within an area of about 4,860 square metres of foreshore and seabed.

The works will begin in September for completion in August 1997.

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

The notice and its related plan can be seen at the Lands Department's Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central; the Islands District Office, 20th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central; and the Mui Wo Sub-office of the Islands District Office, ground floor, Mui Wo Government Offices, 2 Ngan Kwong Wan road, Mui Wo, Lantau island.

Any person who considers that his interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and seabed involved will be affected may submit a written claim for compensation to the Director of Lands on or before April 13, 1996.

He should state in his submission the sum of money he is willing to accept as full and final settlement of his claim and to give particulars to substantiate the claim.

End/Thursday, April 13, 1995

Submarine pipeline proposed for Yim Tin Tsai

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The Government plans to lay a submarine pipeline at Sai Kung Hoi to provide water supply to Yim Tin Tsai and Kau Sai Chau including the proposed golf course at Kau Sai Chau.

The pipeline will be laid within an area of about 10,150 square metres of foreshore and seabed.

The work will begin in August for completion in May, 1996.

The extent of the area affected is gazetted today (Thursday) and the notice and its related plan can be seen on notice boards near the site.

The plans can also be seen at the Lands Department's Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, and at the Sai Kung District Office, ground floor, Sai Kung Government Offices, 34 Chan Man Street, Sai Kung.

The plan can also be purchased at the Survey and Mapping Office.

Any person who considers that he has an interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and seabed involved, and it will be affected, may submit a written objection to the Director of Lands on or before June 13.

End/Thursday, April 13, 1995

Tenders invited for two architectural projects

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for the construction of a prevocational school in Kwai Chung.

The project involves the construction of a general and a special classroom block, an assembly hall, minor ancillary buildings as well as drainage and external works.

Works are scheduled to start in July for completion in 12 months.

Meanwhile, the department is also inviting tenders for the construction of a sportsground which comprises a sportsfield of about 18,000 square metres gross area and two covered spectator stands in Tsuen Wan.

Works are expected to begin in August for completion by January 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 offers for the two projects will close at noon on May 12 and May 19 respectively.

End/Thursday, April 13, 1995

Air Quality Report for March

* * * * *

The Environmental Protection Department today (Thursday) released air quality information for March.

The announcement contains monitoring results from Mong Kok, Central/Western and Kwai Chung, which represent three important land use types in the territory :

- * locations close to road traffic in built-up urban areas;
- * combined commercial and residential districts; and
- * districts close to industrial areas.

The department currently monitors air quality continuously at eight stations, including the three above mentioned districts. Short-term measurement exercises are also undertaken as and where the need arises.

The reported air pollutants include sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), total suspended particulates (TSP) which comprise all sizes of dust particles, and the respirable fraction of the dust (RSP). All these pollutants can affect respiratory health in sufficient concentration.

Levels of air pollution had great variation in March and there were several exceedances of the 24 hour Air Quality Objectives.

On March 13, the TSP and RSP limits were exceeded at Mong Kok monitoring station and the RSP limit was breached at Central/Western monitoring station. On March 22, the NO₂ limit was exceeded at Central/Western while levels of NO₂ were also high at the other two stations.

The gases and particles described originated from various sources. SO₂ is mostly produced when fuels that contain sulphur are burned. NO₂ is formed during combustion by the combination of nitrogen and oxygen, and by the atmospheric oxidation of nitric oxide (NO), also a product of combustion.

Vehicle exhaust is an important source of NO and NO₂ in terms of impact on local air quality. It is also a major source of airborne particulate matter, especially the smaller respirable particles.

Diesel-engined vehicles such as taxis, public light buses, passenger coaches, franchised buses and light and heavy goods vehicles are the greatest contributor of particulate matter. Other sources include industry, furnaces and boilers, construction activities, the sea and the soil.

It is worth noting that while the weather and climate always affect the concentrations of pollutants in the air, the only sure way of reducing the levels is to reduce emissions from the man-made sources.

Note to Editors:

For further information on this air quality report, please contact Mr S W Pang at 2594 6413.

End/Thursday, April 13, 1995

Prequalification of tenderers for Hung Hom road works

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The Highways Department is inviting applications from contractors or joint ventures to prequalify for tendering for the construction of the Hung Hom Bypass, Princess Margaret Road Link and roadworks in Hung Hom Bay.

The works mainly consist of the construction of a 1.3-kilometre four-lane elevated road (the Hung Hom Bypass), between Salisbury Road at Mody Lane and Hung Hom Road at Whampoa Garden and another 1.2-kilometre long elevated road (the Princess Margaret Road Link), linking the Hung Hom Bypass with Chatham Road South, Hung Hom Interchange and Princess Margaret Road.

Works will also include the construction of local roads, footbridges, drainage, landscape and other ancillary works in Hung Hom Bay.

Construction is expected to commence in October for completion around October 1998.

A notice on the invitation for prequalification was published in the gazette today (Thursday).

Contractors and joint ventures interested in prequalifying are invited to write to the project consultants, Maunsell Consultants Asia Ltd, 14th floor, 1 Kowloon Park Drive, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Completed prequalification applications shall be submitted as directed not later than noon on May 19.

Tenders will be called from the prequalified contractors in mid 1995.

End/Thursday, April 13, 1995

CS visits Home Affairs Department and Sai Kung

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The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, today (Thursday) visited the Home Affairs Department Headquarters and Sai Kung District.

She first called at the Sai Kung District Office's Tseung Kwan O Sub-office cum public enquiry service centre at Po Lam Estate to see the operation there.

She was later escorted by the Sai Kung District Officer, Mr Parrish Ng, to a vantage point for a panoramic view of Tiu Keng Leng Cottage area and was briefed on some of the latest developments in the area.

Afterwards Mrs Chan visited the King Lam Neighbourhood Centre where an exhibition on Building Management organised by the Area Committee was being held.

She also saw some activities taking place at the Christian Family Service Jackie Chan Children and Youth Centre.

After the visit to Sai Kung, Mrs Chan went to the Home Affairs Department Headquarters at Southorn Centre in Wan Chai where she was received by the Acting Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Joseph W P Wong.

There she met with the staff side representatives of the Home Affairs Department Departmental Consultative Committee and a selection of front-line staff from the District Offices.

End/Thursday, April 13, 1995

NationsBank, N.A. (Carolinas) granted licence

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A Government spokesman said today (Thursday) that NationsBank, N.A. (Carolinas) (NB) had been granted a banking licence to conduct business in Hong Kong.

NB is the fifth largest banking group in the USA and ranks 30th in the World in terms of capital. It operates 423 domestic branches and has four overseas branches in London, Singapore, Grand Cayman and Nassau.

In Hong Kong, NB has been operating a representative office since August last year. NB believes that as a branch bank, it would be able to provide better service to its clients with business transactions in Hong Kong and the Asian region. The principal business of the proposed branch will include trade financing and money market transactions.

The spokesman said the continuing interest of foreign banks in entering the local market reflected Hong Kong's continued importance and attractiveness as a major international financial centre. The licence for NB is the first banking licence granted in 1995.

There are now 180 licensed banks in Hong Kong, of which 149 are incorporated outside the territory.

End/Thursday, April 13, 1995

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	2,165	0930	+517
Closing balance in the account	2,293	1000	+517
Change attributable to :		1100	+517
Money market activity	+518	1200	+518
LAF today	-390	1500	+518
		1600	+518

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 118.8 *+0.0* 13.4.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.12	13 months	2605	6.35	100.38	6.07
1 month	5.17	22 months	2702	7.50	101.83	6.54
3 months	5.41	27 months	3707	6.95	100.69	6.72
6 months	5.64	33 months	3801	8.00	102.80	6.99
12 months	5.96	59 months	5003	7.75	101.55	7.50

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$19,225 million

Closed April 13, 1995

End/Thursday, April 13, 1995