DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Saturday, June 8, 1996

Contents **Page No.**

Observers Travel Enterprise terminates business 1

Investigation on VM girls' case instructed 1

Important role of HK as trade and services centre stressed 2

Provision of access for the disabled ensured 4

Role of modern nurses stressed 5

Talk on Bermudan history 6

Labour publications available at six main offices 7

Salt water cut in Tai Po 9

Water cut in Yuen Long 9

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations 9

Observers Travel Enterprise terminates business

* * * * *

The Observers Travel Enterprise Co Ltd informed the Registrar of Travel Agents today (Saturday) that it had decided not to carry on business as a travel agent.

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Travel Agents Ordinance, the Registrar has issued a notice of intention to revoke the travel agents licence (licence number 350090) which has been issued to the company inviting the company to make a representation by June 18.

"A decision will be made by mid-June as to whether the travel agents licence granted to Observers Travel Enterprise Co Ltd should be revoked.

"It is understood that some outbound travellers have already reported their cases to the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong. Other clients of the travel agent are advised to get in touch with the company or the Council to ascertain their position in the meantime," a spokesman for the Registrar said.

The Travel Industry Council is situated at Rooms 1706-1709, Fortress Tower, 250 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong, and its telephone enquiry hotline is 2969 8188.

End

Investigation on VM girls' case instructed

* * * * *

In the light of fresh evidence, the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, has instructed the Commissioner of Correctional Services to look into the cases of two Vietnamese migrant girls who were separated from their parents in camp transfers following the riots in the Whitehead Detention Centre on May 10 and 11 and to report back to him by June 18.

The Governor will study the report before deciding if any further action is required.

End

Important role of HK as trade and services centre stressed

* * * * *

The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, said on Friday (Dallas time) the factors that have helped create Hong Kong's success would not disappear after 1997.

Speaking at the business luncheon organised by the Hong Kong Economic and trade Office and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), Mrs Chan said Hong Kong wsas the pre-eminent gateway to China and increasingly a centre for trade and services within the region.

"We are the most important bridge between the West and China, not only in commerce but in many other ways too.

"China naturally turns to Hong Kong for expertise. 600 Chinese delegations visit Hong Kong every year for such purposes.

"Bit by bit, Hong Kong is helping to bring standards in China up to those of the rest of the world," she said.

Mrs Chan said Hong Kong was increasingly a centre for trade and services within the region.

"In the past decade, our trade with other Asian countries has grown by almost 600 per cent in value terms, so that it now accounts for 64 per cent of our total trade," she said.

She said as at June 1, 782 companies had established their regional headquarters in Hong Kong, 87 of them since 1994.

Mrs Chan said the factors that underpinned Hong Kong's success would continue to operate in the years ahead.

These include Hong Kong's geographical location, which is on China's doorstep and mid-way between Tokyo and Singapore; its hardworking, flexible and well-educated work-force; a simple and low tax system; an efficient transport and communication infrastructure; and a predictable legal and judicial system.

In addition, she said, Hong Kong's resilience and "can-do" attitude, had enabled us to overcome so many apparently crippling political and economic problems in the past.

"As we move inexorably towards July 1, 1997, I believe that we are in pretty good shape to face the future.

"I do not advocate blind optimism about the future, neither do I believe in total despair. We have to recognise the problems and face up to them.

"My message is that one can do that and still be positive about the future.

"We forecast continued growth of five per cent per annum in the short to medium term, that is provided we are not knocked off course by any trade dispute between the US and China, our two largest trading partners.

"Unconditional extension of MFN to China is crucially important to us, particularly at this sensitive period of our transition.

"We need a strong economy to sustain confidence in our ability to exercise a high degree of autonomy after July 1997.

"We therefore warmly welcome President Clinton's decision to renew MFN," said Mrs Chan.

The Chief Secretary said she was delighted to find a strong interest in Hong Kong wherever she went in the United States, and Dallas was no exception.

Mrs Chan began the day with a breakfast meeting with the Mayor of Dallas, Ronald Kirk. Mayor Kirk also made the opening remarks at the business seminar.

The business seminar marked the second in a series of three. The first took place on June 5 in New York City and another is scheduled for June 11 in Los Angeles.

During the day, Mrs Chan made other civil, media and business calls. In the evening, she officiated at the opening of the Hong Kong Film Festival and the premiere of the movie Stage Door (Hu-Du-Men) at Dallas' Sony Theatre. The event was attended by film star Anita Yuen and Director Shu Kei.

On Saturday, the Chief Secretary will officiate at the "Hong Kong Salutes Fashionable Dallas" fashion show organised by the HKTDC, before flying to Los Angeles.

End

Provision of access for the disabled ensured

* * * * *

In response to press enquiries regarding inadequate access for people with disabilities at a commercial building on the Peak, a spokesman for the Buildings Department said today (Saturday) that an access improvement plan submitted by the owner of the building proposing the extension of lift service to level three of the premises had just been approved.

Remedial work is expected to start soon.

"The Buildings Department took up the matter with the developer as soon as the problem was brought to its attention in March this year. We are glad that the problem has now been resolved," he said.

The spokesman said since 1983, the Government at the request of developers had adopted a simplified system for processing building plans.

Under the system, the Building Authority's checking of new building plans covers eight major aspects. They are:

* plot ratio and site coverage;
* building projections;
* open space;
* means of access and escape in case of fire;
* fire resistance and compartmentation;
* lighting and ventilation;
* sanitary provisions; and;
* lane/street provision.

"These eight points reflect the Building Authority's primary responsibility of ensuring the safety, health and environmental standards of private buildings. Building plans will be disapproved if these standards are not met.

"Building professionals and building owners have legal obligations to ensure full compliance with all provisions in the Buildings Ordinance, its subsidiary Regulations and guidelines, including the design manual on access facilities for people with disabilities," the spokesman added.

End

Role of modern nurses stressed

* * * * *

The modern nurse has become a centrepiece, not only in the care of the sick, but also in a wide range of health related activities in the community, the Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok, said today (Saturday).

Mrs Fok, at the opening of the first Nursing Seminar organised by the Department of Health, also said the changing health needs had brought about seminal changes in the health care delivery system and the people who worked in it.

She pointed out that the Government had responded to the changing health needs by setting up a range of services, the scope of which permeates every sector of the community.

These include the Student Health Service, Women Health Centres and Elderly Health Centres.

"Perhaps nothing is more remarkable than the spectacular shift in the role played by nurses," Mrs Fok said.

"A nurse's presence is felt everywhere, from clinics to schools, from nursing homes to hospitals.

"This twenty-thousand-strong workforce has a diversity and versatility that is unmatched amongst health professionals."

The seminar was the first one organised by the Department of Health to update health care professionals, especially nurses, and the community on the expanded role of nurses in primary health care.

It aims to keep participants informed of the provision of promotive, curative, preventive, and rehabilitative services of the Department of Health.

Also speaking at the opening ceremony of the seminar, the Director of Health, Dr Margaret Chan, paid tribute to the important contribution of nurses in primary health care towards the high standard of health which Hong Kong people enjoy today.

She said the Nursing Seminar provided an opportunity for the nurses to share with participants their aspiration for "Health for All" through improved or new approaches in delivering client-oriented, quality health care.

She hoped that through the exchange of views and experience between local and international nursing experts, new opportunities for nurses in primary health care in Hong Kong could be identified.

About 400 nurses and healthcare professionals have participated at the seminar. Among the guest speakers was Regional Adviser in Nursing of the World Health Organisation, Mrs Lorraine Kerse.

Also officiating at the opening ceremony were Legislative Councillor, Mr Michael Ho, and Department of Health's Principal Nursing Officer, Ms Margaret Wong.

End

Talk on Bermudan history

* * * * *

A talk on the history of Bermuda from settlement in 1612 to the end of coastal defence in 1956 will be held at 6 pm next Thursday (June 13) at the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO), 136 Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui.

It will be delivered by Dr Edward Harris who is the authority in the subject. Dr Harris has been the Director of the Bermuda Maritime Museum since 1980. He serves in several government advisory committees such as the Bermuda Historical Wrecks Authority and the National Parks Commission.

He has conducted several archaeological excavations in Bermuda. In 1994, he obtained the Palmetto Award, the highest accolade of the Bermuda National Trust for preservation work.

The 45-minute talk will be conducted in English. Seats are available on a first-come-first-served basis.

Further information can be obtained from AMO on 2721 2326.

End

Labour publications available at six main offices

* * * * *

Members of the public can obtain 16 popular publications produced by the Labour Department in six of its major offices throughout the territory.

These publications cover the services being provided by different divisions of the department and also major labour legislation on employment benefits and industrial safety.

The 16 major publications are:

* A Concise Guide to the Employment Ordinance
* Catalogue on Resources Materials of Careers Information Centre (Chinese only)
* Guide to Employees' Compensation Legislation
* How to Apply for Employees' Compensation and related Procedures (Chinese only)
* Leaflet on Local Employment Service (Chinese only)
* Notification of Workplaces
* A Guide to the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations (Chinese only)
* The Labour Department Offers You Its Services
* Performance Pledge 1996
* Job Matching Programme - Do you have recruitment needs? (Chinese only)
* Job Matching Programme - Are you looking for a job? (Chibese only)
* Labour Department General Enquiry Telephone Service
* Guide to Occupational Diseases Prescribed for Compensation Purposes
* Code of Practice for Pressure Equipment Owners (Chinese only)

* Employ the Disabled : Give them a chance to prove themselves (Chinese only)

* Services of the Selective Placement Division (Chinese only)

"By putting these more popular publications at major offices, members of the public can obtain various information conveniently at one time," a Labour Department spokesman said.

The addresses of the six major offices are as follows:

* 16th floor, Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai

* fourth floor, Canton Road Government Offices, 393 Canton Road, Yau Ma Tei

* sixth floor, Kowloon East Government Offices, 12 Lei Yue Mun Road, Kwun Tong

* second floor, Tsuen Wan Government Offices, 38 Sai Lau Kok Road, Tsuen Wan

* first floor, Tuen Mun Government Offices, 1 Tuen Hi Road, Tuen Mun

* fifth floor, Citylink Plaza, 1 Shatin Station Circuit, Sha Tin

"Apart from these six offices, publications on certain services and legislation are also available from related divisional and sub-divisional offices," the spokesman said.

Enquiries about the distribution of the publications can be made on 2852 4125.

End

Salt water cut in Tai Po

* * * * *

Flushing water supply to some premises in Tai Po Industrial Estate will be temporarily suspended from 10 pm on Tuesday (June 11) to 10 am on Thursday (June 13) for the checking of the flushing water supply system.

The suspension will affect premises in Dai Fat Street, Dai Fu Street, Dai Shui Street, Dai Kwai Street, Dai King Street, Dai Wang Street, Dai Cheong Street, Dai Shing Street, Dai Li Street and Dai Hei Street.

End

Water cut in Yuen Long

* * * * *

Fresh and flushing water supply to some premises in Yuen Long will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (June 12) to 6 am the following day to facilitate waste detection work on watermains.

The suspension will affect premises along Fan Kam Road from Lai Tau Tsim to Ta Shek Wu including Lai Tau Tsim, A Kung Tin, Ta Shek Wu Shek Tong and Ta Shek Wu.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

* * * * *

	$ Million	Time (Hours)	Cumulative Change ($ Million)
Opening Balance in the account	1,957	09:30	Nil
Closing Balance in the account	1,867	10:00	Nil
Change Attributable to:		11:00	Nil
Money Market Activity	Nil	11:30	Nil
Laf Today	-90		

Laf Rate 4% Bid/6% Offer TWI 124.5 *+0.1* 8.6.96

End