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Consultants to review cargo forecasts

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Demand forecasts for Hong Kong's port are to be examined under a consultancy agreement signed today (Monday) between the Government and GHK (HK) Ltd. Hong Kong's port is a substantial contributor to the economy and provides employment to a large segment of the workforce.

"It is important, therefore, that it is developed to meet forecast demand," the Secretary of the Hong Kong Port Development, Mr Tony Clark, said. "Because our port development is entirely demand-led," Mr Clark said: "we must forecast as accurately as possible what that demand will be.

"Our forecasts of demand take into account the origins and destination of cargo, the development of local and regional ports, including those in the Pearl River Delta.

"Given the importance of the Pearl River Delta as a key source of cargo, we pay particular attention to both the requirements of shippers and shipping lines and to port construction projects which may have a bearing on our own development plan. "Present indications are that port facilities in the Pearl River Delta are likely to continue to feed cargo into Hong Kong's port rather than take cargo away," Mr Clark said.

"This needs to be re-confirmed so that our strategic port development plan continues to take a realistic vision in the future," he said.

The study will review and update the port cargo forecasts prepared in 1993. "Whilst I do not envisage substantial change," Mr Clark said: "it is important that we keep our information as up to date as possible."

The forecasts are the essential building block for the Government's biannual Port Development Strategy Review (PDSR). This review is, in turn, built into the updated Territorial Development Strategy (TDS).

The PDSR is the guide to what port facilities need to be built and within what time frame. This then ensures that the port can continue to contribute to Hong Kong's economy and that the port's demands on Hong Kong's overall infrastructure can be built into the TDS.

The agreement was signed by Mr Jamie Simpson, Director, on behalf of GHK (HK) Ltd. Mr Clark said he was looking forward to working with GHK on this important consultancy. Initial results should be available early next year.

End/Monday, July 10, 1995

Survey of wholesale and other trades results released

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The import/export trade and hotels (including boarding houses) registered a considerable growth in 1993, with the total receipts increased by 12% and 13% respectively when compared with 1992. In the same period, the total receipts of the retail trade, wholesale trade and restaurants also went up moderately, by 9%, 7% and 7% respectively.

These are some of the major results of the 1993 Survey of Wholesale, Retail and Import/Export Trades, Restaurants and Hotels released today (Monday) by the Census and Statistics Department. The Survey was conducted from May last year to early this year.

All value figures in this press release are expressed in current price terms. The percentage changes derived from these figures have not been adjusted for price changes. Caution should therefore be taken in interpreting the survey results.

In 1993, there were 99 900 import/export establishments in operation, an increase of 12% over 1992. The total receipts generated by these establishments amounted to \$1,754.5 billion, also 12% higher than in 1992.

The total operating expenditure - comprising compensation of employees, operating expenses and value of purchase of goods for sale - incurred by import/export establishments accounted for 94.8% of the total receipts. Net of the expenditure, the gross surplus amounted to 5.2%, which was 0.7 of a percentage point higher than the corresponding figure for 1992.

The value added of these establishments, which is a measure of the industry's contribution to Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product, grew significantly by 24% from \$126.2 billion in 1992 to \$156.4 billion in 1993. It constituted 8.9% of the total receipts, an increase of 0.9 of a percentage point over 1992.

In the hotel business, there were 1,460 hotels and boarding houses in operation in 1993, a decrease of 4% compared with 1992. They generated \$17.7 billion of total receipts, an increase of 13% over 1992.

The total operating expenditure of the hotel industry accounted for 76.3% of the total receipts, which was 2.0 percentage points lower than the figure for 1992. The gross surplus made up the remaining 23.7%.

The value added of the hotel industry was \$10.4 billion in 1993, an increase of 18% over 1992. It accounted for 59.0% of the total receipts, 2.1 percentage points higher than the figure for 1992.

In the retail trade, there were some 57,500 establishments in operation in 1993, a decrease of 5% over 1992. The total receipts generated by these establishments amounted to \$236.9 billion, 9% higher than that for 1992. The gross surplus and total operating expenditure of the retail trade accounted for 6.1% and 93.9% of the total receipts respectively, which were similar to the corresponding figures of 6.2% and 93.8% for 1992.

The value added of retail establishments was \$30.9 billion in 1993, an increase of 9% over 1992. It accounted for 13.1% of the total receipts, same as that for 1992.

In the wholesale trade, there were some 23,300 establishments in operation in 1993, a slight increase of 1% over 1992. These establishments generated \$170.0 billion of total receipts in 1993, an increase of 7% over 1992. The gross surplus and total operating expenditure of the wholesale establishments accounted for 3.8% and 96.2% of the total receipts respectively. These percentage shares were not much different from the figures for 1992.

On the other hand, the value added of these establishments increased significantly by 23% to 14.1 billion in 1993. It accounted for 8.3% of the total receipts, an increase of 1.1 percentage points from the figure for 1992.

In the restaurants business, there were some 10 800 restaurants in operation in 1993, an increase of 6% over 1992. These establishments generated \$60.3 billion of total receipts, an increase of 7% over 1992.

The gross surplus and total operating expenditure of restaurants accounted for 6.7% and 93.3% of the total receipts respectively, showing only slight changes when compared with the corresponding figures of 6.5% and 93.5% for 1992. The value added of restaurants increased by 8% to \$22.8 billion in 1993. It accounted for 37.9% of the total receipts, which was also not much different from the corresponding percentage share of 37.6% for 1992.

The attached table compares some selected principal statistics by major industry group between 1992 and 1993.

More detailed results together with the background and methodology of the survey will be given in a full report to be published in around August. The report will be on sale at the Government Publications Centre of the Information Services Department, Low Block, ground floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong; and the Publications Unit, of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Hong Kong.

Enquiries regarding these survey results may be directed to the Wholesale and Retail Trade Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2802 1248.

Comparison of Selected Principal Statistics for all establishments in
the Wholesale, Retail and Import and Export Trades, Restaurants and Hotels Sector between 1992 and 1993

Major industry group		Number of establishments	Number of persons engaged	Number of employees	Compensations of employees	Operating expenses	Value of purchases of goods for sale	Gross surplus	Sales and other receipts	Value added
					\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.
Wholesale trade	1993	23 302	91 594	67 539	7,006	10,265	146,258	6,479	170,008	14,139
	1992	23 160	84 446	60 959	5,351	8,391	139,940	5,816	159,498	11,519
	% change	+0.6	+8.5	+10.8	+30.9	+22.3	+4.5	+11.4	+6.6	+22.7
Retail trade	1993	57 521	226 132	151 891	16,212	33,643	172,496	14,561	236,912	30,942
	1992	60 705	227 073	152 869	14,218	28,734	160,775	13,503	217,229	28,418
	% change	-5.2	-0.4	-0.6	+14.0	+17.1	+7.3	+7.8	+9.1	+8.9
Import/export trade	1993	99 861	506 030	449 080	65,496	137,045	1,460,433	91,486	1,754,460	156,385
	1992	89 154	428 927	378 241	53,111	111,166	1,332,744	71,538	1,568,560	126,173
	% change	+12.0	+18.0	+18.7	+23.3	+23.3	+9.6	+27.9	+11.9	+23.9
Restaurants	1993	10 816	220 652	208 504	18,769	16,318	21,125	4,064	60,276	22,823
	1992	10 236	205 765	195 813	17,355	15,381	19,773	3,625	56,134	21,121
	% change	+5.7	+7.2	+6.5	+8.1	+6.1	+6.8	+12.1	+7.4	+8.1
Hotels/ boarding houses	1993	1 458	42 699	41 058	5,301	6,384	1,836	4,199	17,721	10,450
	1992	1 524	40 818	39 006	4,585	5,957	1,688	3,391	15,621	8,884
	% change	-4.3	+4.6	+5.3	+15.6	+7.2	+8.8	+23.8	+13.4	+17.6
Total	1993	192 957	1 087 107	918 072	112,783	203,656	1,802,148	120,790	2,239,378	234,739
	1992	184 779	987 028	826 888	94,620	169,629	1,654,920	97,873	2,017,042	196,114
	% change	+4.4	+10.1	+11.0	+19.2	+20.1	+8.9	+23.4	+11.0	+19.7

Notes: (1) Figures denoting changes are derived from unrounded figures.

(2) Individual items may not add up to the corresponding total due to rounding.

(3) Value added is a measure of the contribution of an economic sector/industry to Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product. The definition can be found in the "Report on 1993 Survey of Wholesale, Retail and Import and Export Trades, Restaurants and Hotels".

Two High Court judges appointed

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The Judiciary announced today (Monday) the appointment of Mr Justice Wally Yeung Chun-kuen and Mr Justice Michael Peter Burrell as judges of the High Court with immediate effect.

They were both District Court judges before their appointment to the High Court.

Mr Justice Yeung was born in Hong Kong in 1950. He was educated in the University of Hong Kong and called to the Bar in 1976 in Hong Kong. He joined the Judiciary in 1985 as magistrate. He was appointed a District Court judge in 1987. Mr Justice Yeung is married and has two sons and a daughter.

Mr Justice Burrell was born in England in 1948. He started to practise law as a barrister in England in 1972. He joined the Hong Kong Judiciary in 1986 as magistrate and became a principal magistrate in 1990. He was appointed as a District Court judge in 1991. Mr Justice Burrell is married and has a son and two daughters.

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Appointment to the Appeal Panel for public housing tenants

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The Secretary for Housing, Mr Dominic S W Wong, announced today (Monday) the appointment of the Chairman and 11 members to the Appeal Panel set up to hear appeals against decisions of the Housing Authority to terminate leases or give notices to quit. The term of appointment is for two years with effect from July 1.

The Chairman is Mr Yung Ching-tat and members include Mr Chan Bing-woon, Mr Chan Mo-pow, Mr Chan To-chai, Mr Chan Wai-chung, Ms Anita Cheng Wai-ching, Mrs Chiu Lai-ching, Mr Warren Chow Yum-wah, Ms Bebe Chu Pui-ying, Ms Ho Chung-tim, Mr Law Chi-yuen and Mr Man Hon-ming.

"To ensure that every appeal is handled in a consistent, efficient and impartial manner, a wide cross-section of membership is necessary," Mr Wong said.

"The appointees will provide a good balance of interests and expertise. They include a District Board chairman, a teacher, a technical worker, solicitors, businessmen and public housing tenants."

The appointments will be gazetted on Friday (July 14).

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New clinic strengthens services in Tuen Mun

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The public medical and health sector of Hong Kong has gradually become a provider of inexpensive services of high quality, but the ever-changing environment exerts pressure on future reforms, Legislative Councillor Dr Leong Chi-hung said today (Monday).

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Tuen Mun Wu Hong Clinic, Dr Leong said: "There is an on going process during which new targets were being set up and the original scope of service being reviewed continually.

"Important factors of the ever-changing environment should not be overlooked. These include the aging population, a decrease in the percentage of the proportional working population, continual increase of the medical cost at a faster tempo than the economic growth, and the demanding public who was always expecting advancement in the quality of medical care service," he said.

Dr Leong maintained that enhancing liaison between the public and private sectors, controlling the cost and promoting efficiency of health care services should be the focus on improving existing deficiencies.

"In this connection, I understand that the Department of Health, being responsible for the health services of Hong Kong, has been working actively to improve its services," he said.

He noted that in addition to primary health care services, the Department of Health had initiated a number of new programmes including to establish health centres for women aged 45 and above and old people aged 65 and above, and to introduce a new Student Health Service later this year.

Dr Leong stressed that primary health care service needed participation of everyone. The Department of Health had successfully taken its first step as the District Health System and the patient's liaison group piloted in Kwun Tong had achieved fairly good results.

Also speaking at the ceremony, the acting Director of Health, Dr Paul Saw said the Department of Health had pledged to provide better service since 1992.

He said: "Tuen Mun Wu Hong Clinic is in the Performance Pledge scheme."

He pointed out that the design of the clinic was very client-centred. With the assistance of the Architectural Services Department, a footbridge connecting the clinic to the nearby Light Rail Transit station and public estates had been built to facilitate patients' access.

Dr Saw believed the department would be able to further improve its primary health services with the community's participation and support.

Tuen Mun Wu Hong Clinic is the third government clinic in Tuen Mun District. The clinic has a total gross floor area of about 3,000 square-meters and provides general out-patient and maternal and child health services to local residents.

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Removal of HAB's Trust Funds Section

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The Home Affairs Branch's Trust Funds, Temples and Cemeteries Section will be moved to Rooms 2101-2102, 21st floor, Tung Wai Commercial Building, 109-111 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai next Monday (July 17).

Members of the public who wish to enquire about related matters can telephone the Trust Funds on 2519 9141, Chinese Temples Committee on 2519 9133 and the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries Office on 2519 9120.

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Container traffic continues to grow

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Hong Kong's container port continues to set new records. Official figures for the first quarter of 1995 show that the port handled 2.68 million twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEUs) in the first quarter of 1995. This was a 16.2 percent increase over the same period last year.

The throughput figures for March showed a massive 21.5 percent increase to total 998,000 TEUs for the month.

Unofficial figures for the eight container terminals (this does not include mid-stream and river trade traffic) show the 16 per cent increase in throughput continuing for the first five months of this year. The eight terminals moved 3.2 million TEUs over their wharves up to the end of May just 16 per cent more than they handled in the first five months of 1994.

If the 16 per cent increase continues throughout the year Hong Kong should handle more than 12.8 million TEUs in 1995.

Although improve efficiency has enabled the existing eight containers terminals to handle the growth so far, the increase throughput underlined the urgently for containers terminals 9, 10 & 11 to come into operation as soon as possible.

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Keep dogs under proper control

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The Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) today (Monday) reminded dog owners to keep their dogs under proper control to prevent them from attacking people. Members of the public are also reminded to take proper measures to protect children from attacks.

The advice came from the AFD's Senior Veterinary Officer, Dr Liu Kwei-kin, following a number of dog bite incidents over the weekend.

Dr Liu said: "Dog owners should avoid selecting large aggressive breeds and prevent their dogs from wandering from home.

"They should muzzle their dog if it is aggressive and put it on a leash where appropriate."

On the part of the public, they should always remember that a dog can bite and do not leave children with dogs unless an adult is present.

"Do not let children approach feeding dogs and bitches with puppies and do not provoke a dog by teasing it or making sudden movement or loud noise," Dr Liu said.

Following are guidelines to dog owners and advice to public:

Responsibilities of dog owners

- * Avoid large aggressive breeds
- * Socialise with your dog from an early stage
- * Provide tender loving care and training
- * Prevent your dog from wandering away from home. Put it on a leash
- * Muzzle your dog if it is aggressive
- * Desex the animal to prevent aggression
- * Take particular care when you have visitors at home
- * Vaccinate your dog to prevent rabies
- * Do not abandon your dog. Take it to the government kennels or the RSPCA

Advice to the Public

- * Always remember a dog can bite
- * Do not leave children with dogs unless an adult is present
- * Prevent children from approaching feeding dogs and bitches with puppies
- * Do not provoke a dog by teasing it or making sudden movement or loud noise
- * Pay extra attention if you are new to the dog
- * Heed the dog owner's advice on how to approach his dogs
- * If threaten by dogs, stay calm. Back off quietly and steadily. Never run
- * Report any dog bite to the police and seek treatment
- * Identify the biting dog and provide information to facilitate investigation

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Third quarter rates due on July 31

Rates for the third quarter of this year are payable on or before July 31, a spokesman for the Treasury said.

Payment can be made using the Payment by Phone Service or by post addressed to the Director of Accounting Services, P O Box 8000, GPO, Hong Kong, or in person at any of the following offices:

* The Treasury Headquarters Collection and Payment Office, Immigration Tower, first floor, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong;

* The Central Sub-Treasury, Central Government Offices (West Wing), 11 Ice House Street, Hong Kong;

* The North Point Sub-Treasury, Max Share Centre, first floor, 373 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong;

* The Sai Wan Ho Sub-Treasury, Eastern Law Courts Building, ground floor, 29 Tai On Street, Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong;

* The Yau Ma Tei Sub-Treasury, Kowloon Government Offices, fourth Floor, 405 Nathan Road, Kowloon;

* The Kowloon City Sub-Treasury, Man Sang Commercial Building, first floor, 348-352 Prince Edward Road, Kowloon;

* The District Office at Sai Kung, Sha Tin, Tai Po, North, Yuen Long, Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan or Kwai Tsing.

The spokesman said ratepayers who had not received their demand notes should bring along those for any previous quarter to any of the Treasury collection offices.

Duplicate demand notes will be issued to them, he said.

If they cannot produce demand notes for any previous quarter, they should enquire of the Rates Accounts Section, Rating and Valuation Department, Hennessy Centre, 17th floor, 500 Hennessy Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.

Non-receipt of the demand notes does not alter the requirement that the rates must be paid by July 31 and unless so paid, ratepayers may be subject to a surcharge of five per cent under Section 22 of the Rating Ordinance.

A further surcharge of 10 per cent may be levied on the outstanding amount (including the five per cent surcharge) which remains unpaid six months after the due date.

Ratepayers who have submitted a valid direct debit authorisation should note that if the wording "Payment To Be Made By Autopay" is shown, payment will be made by direct debit to their bank accounts on July 31.

They should then ensure that their bank accounts contain the necessary funds on that date.

If the above wording is not shown, they should pay according to the instructions as set out in the demand notes.

To save queuing time, the spokesman urged ratepayers to use the Payment by Phone Service, or pay by post using cheques or cashier orders, or by early personal attendance at any of the collection offices.

"However, the most convenient payment method is autopay," said the spokesman.

Application forms for autopay are obtainable from Treasury collection offices, District Offices and all major banks in Hong Kong or by telephoning 2845 8866.

For additional information regarding the Payment by Phone Service, please call 170 222 329.

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Water storage figure

Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 69.4 per cent of capacity or 450.530 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 434.892 million cubic metres of water, representing 74.2 per cent of capacity.

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Fresh water cut in Sheung Shui

Fresh water supply to some premises in Sheung Shui will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Thursday (July 13) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water mains leakage detection.

The affected areas will include Pak Wo Road, So Kwun Po Road, Po Kin Road, Kat Cheung Crescent, Kai Leng, Ng Uk Tsuen, Chong Tsin Leng and Po Leng Au.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
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Opening balance in the account	1,572	0930	+936
Closing balance in the account	1,528	1000	+936
Change attributable to :		1100	+942
Money market activity	+946	1200	+949
LAF today	-990	1500	+949
		1600	+946

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 119.0 *+0.3* 10.7.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills

EF notes

Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.23	2 years	2705	6.40	101.49	5.61
1 month	5.27	3 years	3804	6.90	102.78	5.89
3 months	5.36	5 years	5006	6.60	100.54	6.57
6 months	5.39	5 years	M501	7.90	103.89	7.06
12 months	5.45					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$ 17,142 million

Closed July 10, 1995

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