



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Environmental impact report to be released

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The report of a study on the nature and extent of potential environmental impact on Wong Chu Road and Lung Mun Road arising from the development of Tuen Mun Area 38 will be released on Monday (September 9).

"The study which started in December 1994 aims to provide information on the environmental impacts resulting from the road works and to recommend practical mitigation measures to minimise the potential impacts on the environment and residents," said a spokesman for the Highways Department.

The development of Tuen Mun Area 38 involves improvements to the junctions at both ends of Wong Chu Road. A bypass along the foothills of Castle Peak will also be built from Tuen Mun Area 45 at the north western of Melody Garden to Wong Chu Road.

"The road works will help overcome the anticipated traffic problems on Lung Mun Road and Wong Chu Road and to provide a main access for traffic to and from Area 38," said the spokesman.

Endorsed by the Tuen Mun District Board and the Advisory Council on the Environment, the report of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) recommends a series of mitigation measures for impacts during construction and operation in the future.

These include building a total enclosure for the section of Wong Chu Road outside On Ting Estate and Yau Oi Estate and noise barriers at some other places.

The EIA final report is on sale at \$500 and its executive summary free of charge. Both are available at the Major Works Project Management Office of the Highways Department, third floor, Ho Man Tin Government Offices, 88 Chung Hau Street, Ho Man Tin, Kowloon.

They can also be seen at reference libraries of the Urban and Regional councils' district central libraries at the City Hall, Kowloon Central, Tsuen Wan, Sha Tin and Tuen Mun.

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Appeal to social security board drops

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The Social Security Appeal Board has received a total of 113 appeals in 1995/96 - two cases less than the preceding year.

Among the appeals, 50 were for comprehensive social security assistance, 61 for social security allowance and two were associated with the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Scheme, according to the latest annual report of the Social Security Appeal Board.

"All appeals were heard by members of the Board who are all unofficials appointed by the Governor," a spokesman for the Board said today (Saturday).

"They act as an independent body to provide a means of redress for persons who are not satisfied with the decision of the Social Welfare Department in respect of eligibility and payment of social security benefits."

The Board has so far heard 46 cases for 1995/96 and another 27 cases brought forward from previous years.

Of these 73 appeals heard during the year, the Board confirmed the decision of the Social Welfare Department in 36 cases and varied the ruling of the other 37.

Of the 37 cases with decision in favour of the appellants, 32 - or 86 per cent - of them lodged their appeals against the medical assessment.

To keep members of the public well inform of the appeal system, posters about the Appeal Board are displayed at all 33 social security field units throughout the territory as well as the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Section. Leaflets are also available for collection at these offices.

In addition, whenever a person is notified in writing of the result of his application for social security benefits by the Social Welfare Department, he is also informed of his right to appeal to the Board if he is dissatisfied with the department's decision.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$ million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,962	09:30	NIL
Closing balance in the account	1,842	10:00	NIL
Change attributable to:		11:00	NIL
Money market activity	NIL	11:30	NIL
LAF today	-120		

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.1 **+0.1* 7.9.96

End

Governor's "Letter to Hong Kong"

The following is the full text of the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's broadcast on RTHK's "Letter to Hong Kong" this (Sunday) morning:

Well, that wasn't a bad August for Hong Kong, was it?

The weather was less fierce than it's sometimes been in recent years. And we covered ourselves in glory on the sporting field - or, in the most celebrated case, sporting water. Everyone in Hong Kong is specially proud of our Paralympics and Olympics teams for all of whom I gave a government reception this week. They did marvellously well. We think above all of course of Lee Lai-san who won a gold medal in the Olympics, and Benny Cheung Wai-leung who won 4 gold medals in the Paralympics. But I'm sure that they would be the first to say that every member of both teams deserved a big pat on the back for trying their best and doing their best for Hong Kong.

Now, for those of us who've been on holiday, it's back to work, although when I listen to one or two commentators there's apparently nothing left for us to do. That familiar old pet, the lame duck, has come quacking out of the house of political clichés. He was first sighted many years ago. Would you believe it, my distinguished predecessor the energetic and decisive Lord Maclehoze was the first Governor to earn this sobriquet. After him the much loved Teddy Youde had the same things said about him. Then, too, my immediate predecessor, David Wilson. The lame duck quacks on. Firing a few shots into his feathers won't prevent his re-appearance. A lot of people find it easier to talk than think. But let's try to give his life a little context.

What's true? It's true, for a start, that a Governor of Hong Kong won't ever return from his summer holidays again. The fact that I'm the last of one breed, and my successor is the first of another, imposes a reality on events which it would be ludicrous to deny. Increasingly, the tough questions will be directed towards my successor, because he or she will have to answer for what happens from the second half of next year onwards. And my successor will have to give a vision for the future, in the same way that in 1992 when I arrived here I set out what I wanted to do - keeping our economy strong and competitive, opening up government and making it more accountable, putting in place more protection for our civil liberties as promised in the Joint Declaration, developing our social and educational programmes in a way we could afford. In short, ensuring that Hong Kong remained prosperous, socially and politically stable, and free.

But my shelf-life ends at the end of June, next year. No one seeks to prolong that, whatever the imaginative conspiracy theorists and the Communist press may say. 28th and last Governor means just that - 28th and last.

But what that does not mean - forgive the double negative - is that there's nothing left to do. Let me tell you what is going to keep me and my administration very busy for the next 10 months. I identify 5 main tasks.

First, we have to govern Hong Kong as well as we can. Government - good public administration - should be a seamless robe. We couldn't simply close down the government for the next 10 months and hope that it could be switched on again, like a sports coupe under winter wraps, next summer. We have to ensure that the economy stays strong; that investors stay confident; that the fight against inflation goes on; that the fight for greater competitiveness continues; that we see off the doomsters and any speculative sharks.

And we have to keep Hong Kong safe and orderly, too. Driving crime down. Fighting drugs. Hitting the triads. Supporting our police.

Remember the predictions, the forecasts of calamity, that we used to hear about Hong Kong in the last years of transition? The fact that those forecasts haven't come true is the result of many factors. But at least one of them is that Hong Kong has been well governed, carefully governed. Success isn't simply an accident. You've worked for it; the Government has worked for it. We intend to go on working for it.

Second, back in 1992 - and this was something that many people including Lee Kuan Yew encouraged me to do - back on those days I set out a five year agenda for Hong Kong. It's interesting to look back at the newspaper headlines from then. It was seen as a pretty bold programme, and some doubted how much of it we could achieve.

Much of it is now completed. And we do something which is unusual if not unique for modern governments. Every year we set out for you a clear record of what we've done against what we promised. What it shows is where we've fallen behind, and we naturally get criticised for that. But I hope that some people will also give us the credit for being honest.

My second task will be to try to complete successfully that 5 year agenda of change and renewal. Programmes for the elderly. For the disabled. For our school children, students and teachers. For the needy. For those at the frontiers of our commercial efforts.

A great deal has been achieved, but some things remain to be done.

For instance - and this is our third main task - we have to complete our programme of legislation to ensure that all our laws are in line with the international covenants and the Bill of Rights. There are some people who ask - why bother, if China's advisers are urging them to reverse all that you and LegCo do? There's a simple answer to that. I intend to see that we do all that we promised to do before 1st July 1997 to live up to the promises made to Hong Kong in the Joint Declaration. If others afterwards resile from their promises and obligations, than that's for them to explain. For our part, we'll keep our word even if keeping our word is thought by some to be disgracefully provocative.

Fourth, we've still got quite a few important bits of work to do in the Joint Liaison Group. The much maligned JLG has actually got through much more work than it's been given credit for. But we're not yet at the end of the road, and time is running out. We shall also, as part of the work of managing the transition, wish to establish as good a co-operative relationship as possible with the Chief Executive-Designate and his or her team. That shouldn't be too difficult. After all, the likelihood is that most of those who are running Hong Kong today will be running Hong Kong tomorrow. And while there will obviously be some changes in policy, reflecting perhaps different perspectives and priorities, Hong Kong's social and economic record doesn't suggest that a complete overhaul of everything we do is required. There isn't too much wrong with Hong Kong today. Maybe the best analogy is that the car will need a good service rather than to be traded in for a completely different model.

Finally, there'll be one other task as well. To speak up for Hong Kong, here and abroad, and to argue with passion and conviction for the things, the values that have made Hong Kong such a success, a medal winner in almost every event.

Hong Kong is free. Hong Kong lives under the rule of law. Hong Kong has a clean government accountable to an increasingly democratic legislature and Hong Kong has a free and outspoken press. We are most likely to retain those things - whose future has been promised - if we speak up for them. "Go quietly into the night" has never struck me as a very good motto or guide to leadership in a free society. So I shall continue to speak out, without - as they say - fear or favour, and I hope you will, too.

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Young offenders to stage Beating Retreat 1996

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The Correctional Services Department's (CSD) Beating Retreat 1996, an elaborate musical event featuring boy scouts and girl guides who are inmates of CSD institutions, will be held at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium on October 4 and 5.

The event is significant to both participants and organisers because it provides young inmates with the opportunity of serving the community as the proceeds will be donated to various charities. More importantly, it promotes the rehabilitation for young offenders.

In collaboration with the Scout Association of Hong Kong, CSD introduced scouting into training centres in 1986 and it is through scout training and activities that young offenders learn to acquire self-reliance, self-discipline, self-confidence and sense of responsibility - qualities they need to turn over a new leaf.

"Scouting has since become an established feature of character training for the training centre programme," said a CSD spokesman.

"The aim of scouting is to promote the physical, mental, social and spiritual development of young people so that they may take a constructive place in society.

"This is achieved by providing enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training based on the Scout Promise and Scout Law, and guided by adult leadership."

The 221st Hong Kong Group was established in July 1986 for the inmates of Lai King Training Centre and Cape Collinson Correctional Institution with 78 inmates from the two training centres joining the Group voluntarily. Nineteen CSD staff were appointed scout leaders.

Today, some 250 scout members from the two training centres receive training under the leadership of 35 CSD staff. In the past 10 years, a total of 1,485 inmates had joined the Group at different times.

Activities and training for the young scouts include camping, expedition, community services, recreational activities and scouting skills such as knotting, map reading, first-aid and orienteering.

Scout members also participate in activities at district, regional and international levels such as the Eastern District Scout Day, Scout Rally, Prince of Wales Competition and World Jamboree.

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