



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Study to tackle drug and suicide problems among youths	1
Building Department's statement on Fortuna Hotel case	1
Activity Approach Exhibition 1996	2
Tender for issue of exchange fund notes	3
Water storage figure	4
Salt water cut on Tsing Yi Island	5
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	5

Study to tackle drug and suicide problems among youths

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The Department of Psychology of the University of Hong Kong has been commissioned to conduct a \$1 million study project on the use of peer support and life skill counsellors in schools to help tackle the drug problem and adolescent suicides.

Commissioned by the Education Department, the study is one of the initiatives taken by the department to echo the call for follow-up actions at the Drug Summit chaired by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, in March last year.

The aim of the study is to find ways to promote teenagers' awareness of building up their confidence and techniques in handling difficulties in life.

Principals, teachers and students of Primary Four to Primary Six and Secondary One to Secondary Seven in local schools will fall within the scope of the study target.

The study will explore, among other things, the possibilities and effective use of peer support and life skill counsellors to prevent the drug problem and adolescent suicides in local primary and secondary schools.

Another objective is to develop a peer support life skill training programme for implementation in local primary and secondary schools.

The study is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

End

Building Department's statement on Fortuna Hotel case

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The Director of Buildings, Dr Choi Yu-leuk, today (Monday) commented in response to press enquiries that his department had recommended that legal actions be taken against the persons involved in the trial of the Fortuna Hotel case despite the decision by the Legal Department of dropping the charges against the four remaining defendants this morning.

"We have submitted a full investigation report together with the related information to the Legal Department for its consideration.

"Furthermore, a private practising building professional was employed to provide expert opinion. We understand that the Legal Department has fully considered all the information and evidence before making the decision of dropping the charges.

"We will also review the trial case in great details to see whether further improvement can be made in the legislation and the system of submitting and approving demolition plans," Dr Choi said.

Dr Choi also noted that after the collapse accident in September 1994, the Buildings Department had implemented a series of programmes to improve demolition work safety. These include:

- the setting up of the Site Monitoring Section to monitor the safety operation of construction and demolition sites;
- the Buildings (Amendments) (No.3) Bill proposing better work supervision in sites and introducing a new contractor registration system including that for demolition works.
- the commissioning of a consultant firm to undertake a study on demolition works and to produce a code of practice.

End

Activity Approach Exhibition 1996

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The Curriculum Development Institute of the Education Department will hold the Activity Approach Exhibition 1996 from Thursday (March 14) to March 19.

The theme of the exhibition is "Exploring and Reading Together" which is aimed at promoting the effective implementation of the Activity Approach. Teachers are encouraged to take the opportunity to share their experiences in the design and implementation of study projects and reading activities.

Teacher-design study projects from 20 participating primary schools will be displayed at the exhibition. The exhibits include photographs and video-tapes on the learning process, teaching resources and learning outcomes.

A seminar will be organised during the exhibition period on March 18 to promote the effectiveness of Activity Approach in improving the quality of primary education, and to introduce supportive measures provided by the Education Department.

The Activity Approach Exhibition 1996 will be held at the Activity Approach Centre, 19 Hok Yuen Street, Hung Hom, from 9 am to 4 pm on weekdays and from 9 am to noon on Saturdays.

Enquiries concerning the exhibition and group visit arrangements can be directed to the Activity Approach Team of the Curriculum Development Institute on 2892 5833 or 2892 5834.

End

Tender for the 7th issue of 5-year exchange fund notes

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Tender for the seventh issue of 5-year exchange fund notes will be held on March 18 for settlement on March 19, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announces today (Monday).

Similar to the previous issue, an amount of \$500 million 5-year notes will be on offer. In addition to that, another \$100 million will be held as reserve by HKMA for supply to market makers in the secondary market.

The notes will mature on March 19, 2001, and will carry interest at the rate of 6.75% per annum payable semi-annually in arrears.

Members of the public who wish to tender for the notes may do so through any market makers or recognised dealers on the published list which can be obtained from the HKMA at 30th floor, 3 Garden Road, Hong Kong, Tel 2878 8150. Each tender must be for an amount of \$50,000 or integral multiples thereof.

Following is the tender information for the seventh issue of 5-year exchange fund notes:

Issue Number : 5103

Tender Date and Time : Monday, March 18, 1996, 9.30 am to 10.30 am

- Issue and Settlement Date : Tuesday, March 19, 1996
- Amount on Offer : \$500 million plus an additional \$100 million as reserve stock for the Monetary Authority
- Maturity : Five years
- Maturity Date : March 19, 2001
- Interest Rate : 6.75% per annum payable semi-annually in arrears
- Interest Payment Dates : Sept 19, 1996, Mar 19, 1997,
Sept 19, 1997, Mar 19, 1998,
Sept 21, 1998, Mar 19, 1999,
Sept 20, 1999, Mar 20, 2000,
Sept 19, 2000, Mar 19, 2001
- Tender Amount : Each tender must be for an amount of \$50,000 or integral multiples thereof. Members of the public who wish to tender for the notes may approach market makers or recognised dealers on the published list
- Other details : Please see Information Memorandum published or approach market makers or recognised dealers

End

Water storage figure

Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 79 per cent of capacity or 462.771 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 399.409 million cubic metres of water, representing 68.2 per cent of capacity.

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Salt water cut on Tsing Yi Island

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Flushing water supply to all premises on Tsing Yi Island will be temporarily suspended from 5 pm on Thursday (March 14) to 8 am the following day to facilitate watermains work.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,572	0930	+1,230
Closing balance in the account	1,469	1000	+1,230
Change attributable to :		1100	+1,230
Money market activity	+1,224	1200	+1,230
LAF today	- 1,327	1500	+1,226
		1600	+1,224

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 123.7 *-0.1* 011.03.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.94	2 years	2802	5.16	98.29	6.21
1 month	5.30	3 years	3901	5.57	97.99	6.44
3 months	5.42	5 years	5012	6.38	98.16	6.95
6 months	5.54	7 years	7302	6.02	93.86	7.28
12 months	5.70	5 years	M502	7.30	100.59	7.27

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$21,466 million

Closed March 11, 1996

End