



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, April 2, 1976

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VALUE OF FEBRUARY EXPORTS UP BY \$477 MILLION

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The value of Hong Kong's domestic exports for February amounted to \$1,749 million, representing an increase of \$477 million or 37.5 per cent, by value, compared with the same month last year.

According to provisional trade figures issued by the Census and Statistics Department today, the value of imports increased by 38.5 per cent to \$2,983 million while the value of re-exports went up by 31.5 per cent to \$638 million compared with February 1975.

Commenting on the trade figures, a spokesman for the Commerce and Industry department said that as anticipated the percentage increase in the value of Hong Kong's domestic exports for February 1976, compared with the same month in 1975, was not as high as the 58 per cent increase recorded in January 1976 compared to January 1975.

"However, the figures for January 1976 were rather exceptional and the February figures reflect the more gradual monthly increases in the value of Hong Kong's domestic exports which have occurred since the present upward trend started in September 1975," he added.

The figures for the 12-month period from March 1975 to February 1976 compared with those of the previous 12-month period showed increases, by value, of 8.3 per cent for domestic exports, 4.3 per cent for imports and 5.5 per cent for re-exports.

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Note to Editors:

The following table with comparative figures is given for your reference:-

/Domestic .....

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Domestic Exports : \$1,749 million  
 Imports : \$2,983 million  
 Re-exports : \$ 638 million

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

	February 1976	February 1975	Increase or decrease	
	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	1,749 (73.3%)	1,272 (72.4%)	+ 477	+ 37.5
Imports	2,983	2,154	+ 829	+ 38.5
Re-exports (% of Total Exports)	638 (26.7%)	485 (27.6%)	+ 153	+ 31.5

	Dec. 1975 to Feb. 1976	Dec. 1974 to Feb. 1975	Increase or decrease	
	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports	6,624	4,639	+ 1,985	+ 42.8
Imports	9,657	7,102	+ 2,556	+ 36.0
Re-exports	1,994	1,526	+ 467	+ 30.6

	Jan.-Feb.. 1976	Jan.-Feb. 1975	Increase or decrease	
	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	4,332 (76.0%)	2,907 (74.4%)	+ 1,424	+ 49.0
Imports	6,219	4,560	+ 1,660	+ 36.4
Re-exports (% of Total Exports)	1,368 (24.0%)	1,000 (25.6%)	+ 368	+ 36.8

	March 1975 to Feb. 1976	March 1974 to Feb. 1975	Increase or decrease	
	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports	24,283	22,417	+ 1,866	+ 8.3
Imports	35,131	33,694	+ 1,437	+ 4.3
Re-exports	7,341	6,958	+ 383	+ 5.5

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CHAI WAN OUTLINE ZONING PLAN

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The Town Planning Board has published a draft outline zoning plan for the development of Chai Wan into a self-contained township with all essential services and facilities for the estimated 160,000 residents who will live there by 1986.

The plan, which covers about 382 hectares (946 acres), supersedes the previous one exhibited in 1973.

The Secretary of the Board, Mr. Clive Caldwell, said today that although there was no change in the land use pattern as indicated in the original plan, a new set of notes had been incorporated to provide greater flexibility in development. The notes list the specified uses, and those that may be permitted on application, of sites within the various zones shown in the approved plan.

Under a notice published in today's Gazette, anyone objecting to the notes must submit his objection in writing to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o the Public Works Department, within the next two months.

The outline zoning plan provides some 38 hectares (95 acres) of land in the district for residential development. This includes the existing public housing estates, the Hing Wah Estate now nearing completion by the Public Works Department, and the planned redevelopment of Chai Wan Cottage area for 8,000 people.

Other sites are also reserved off Hong Man Street for a Housing Society estate or a project of a similar nature, and to the east of San Ha Street for flats for higher income groups.

/A total of ....

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A total of 32 hectares (79 acres) along the waterfront is reserved for industrial purposes, with the aim of creating an industrial complex which will not only provide employment opportunities for Chai Wan residents, but also for the eastern part of Hong Kong Island.

With the exception of the existing industrial area at Hong Man Street and Lee Chung Street, future industrial development will be concentrated on the eastern part of the reclamation now under way by the Port Works Division of the P.W.D.'s Engineering Development Department. The reclamation is being carried out in stages and should be fully completed by July 1980.

Sites are also reserved for a sheltered cargo handling basin, embracing a three-hectare (seven-acre) cargo working area, and a container freight station on the reclamation.

Land earmarked for government, institutional and community uses amounts to about 40 hectares (99 acres) or about 18 per cent of the planning area. Among the proposed facilities is a civic centre at the existing typhoon shelter which will include a library, exhibition and community hall, government offices and estate welfare accommodation.

Other proposed community facilities include a hospital on the hill above Hing Wah Village, schools, a fire station, two markets, bus termini, and a multi-storey carpark.

In addition, a large site is reserved for a swimming pool and park complex already included in the Public Works Programme. The swimming pool, which will be similar to that at Morse Park, will serve residents at Chai Wan, Shau Kei Wan and Quarry Bay.

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Altogether about 14 hectares (35 acres) are zoned as open space for recreational purposes, and 157 hectares (388 acres) as green belt to enhance the living environment of the residents.

Land for commercial/residential development amounts to about 6.4 hectares (16 acres), and about 34 hectares (84 acres) are reserved for major roads and junctions.

Planned roads include a high capacity highway which will sweep down from the spur above Lei Yue Mun Bay and run alongside the bottom of the hill, overpass Chai Wan Road and join Wan Tsui Road.

Public Works Department road planners are also considering linking Chai Wan with the recreational area of Tai Tam by a road tunnel. This would also bring the district closer to the Repulse Bay, Deep Water Bay and Aberdeen areas.

The outline plan contains provisions for possible future links with the Metro. Provisions are made for two Metro Stations - one near Hing Wah Estate and another at the centre of the town near the proposed cargo handling basin.

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JANUARY ACCOUNTS SHOW \$461 M. SURPLUS

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The Government accounts for the month of January 1976 show a surplus of \$461 million as compared with a surplus of \$268 million in January last year.

This has resulted in a surplus of \$176 million (excluding loan receipts) for the first ten months of the financial year 1975-76, compared with a deficit of \$405 million for the same period last year.

Total revenue for the month at \$992 million was \$146 million more than in January 1975 due mainly to increased receipts from internal revenue.

Total expenditure was \$531 million - \$47 million less than the same month in 1975, mainly because of decreased spending on public works projects following the significant decline in contract prices.

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HOLIDAY POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS

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Postal arrangements for Monday (April 5), a general holiday, were announced by the Postmaster General today.

There will be one delivery of mail on that day.

At the same time, 32 post offices, including the General Post Office, the Kowloon Central Post Office and the Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, will be open for business from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

All other post offices will be closed.

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NGAU CHI WAN OUTLINE ZONING PLAN

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The Town Planning Board has published a revised draft Outline Zoning Plan for Ngau Chi Wan, incorporating two amendments.

The first provides for the inclusion of notes which list in detail the permitted uses and those that may be permitted on application to the Board within each of the various zones.

The other amendment involves the re-zoning of a site at the junction of Lung Cheung Road and Clear Water Bay Road from village-type development to commercial residential use.

The draft plan covers a total of 463.5 acres, bounded by Kwun Tong Road and Clear Water Bay Road to the south, Hammer Hill Road to the west, and by hillsides to the north and east.

Among the various uses, 232.8 acres have been zoned as green belt, 59.3 acres for residential development, 2.5 acres for commercial/residential use, 9.4 acres for village-type development, 11.8 acres for open space, and 42.2 acres for government, institution and community use.

The amended plan, incorporating the notes on permitted uses, may be inspected at the Town Planning Office, 17th floor, Public Works Department, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong; the Central Enquiry Sub-Office, Central Government Offices, West Wing, Hong Kong; or at the City District Office, Wong Tai Sin, Paris Theatre Building, King Fuk Street, San Po Kong.

Copies of the draft plan are also on sale at the P.W.D.'s Crown Lands and Survey Office, 19th floor, Murray Building, Hong Kong, at \$5 for an uncoloured copy and \$25 for each coloured copy.

Any person affected by the amendments to the plan may submit the objection in writing to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o the Public Works Department, Murray Building, Hong Kong. Objections and proposed alterations should reach the Secretary before June 1, 1976.

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LADY MACLEHOSE VISITS GIRLS' SCHOOL IN KWUN TONG

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Lady MacLehose this (Friday) morning spent over an hour visiting St. Catharine's School for Girls in Kwun Tong.

Accompanied by the principal, the Rev. J.M. Bennett, Lady MacLehose first had an overall impression of the work of the school and students at an exhibition mounted in the school hall.

St. Catharine's, an Anglo-Chinese school under the sponsorship of the Chinese Anglican Church in Hong Kong (Sheng Kung Hui), has an enrolment of about 1,150.

A special feature of the school is its curriculum which branches out into five streams -- arts, science, commercial, vocational and technical studies -- from form three upwards and students can pick those subjects they like most from these fields.

Students at the school are also active in extra-curricular and community activities. Recently at an annual fun fair, the students' union raised some \$12,000 for handicapped children in the Kwun Tong area.

Lady MacLehose was very interested in the work of the school and during her tour of the classrooms, she chatted with several students and enquired about their studies and activities.

In the music room, she was treated to songs by the girls taking their singing lessons.

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GRIFFITH PUTS ART ON MAP IN SCHOOLS

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The Deputy Director of Education (Administration), Mr. Colvyn Hays paid tribute today to Mr. Mike Griffith, the retiring Senior Education Officer, for putting Art on the map in schools.

"Thanks to his single-minded enthusiasm for his subject Mr. Griffith has played no small part in encouraging our children to win distinctions in international exhibitions.

"Hong Kong children have secured innumerable medals and diplomas in art exhibitions staged at the Olympic Games in Rome, Berlin and Mexico in addition to children's art displays in New York, Hyrinking in Finland, Luxemburg and Tokyo," Mr. Hays said at the presentation of a retirement gift to Mr. Griffith.

He said Mr. Griffith was instrumental in setting up the Cultural Crafts Centre and securing the position of Design in the Art curriculum in Hong Kong schools.

Mr. Griffith, who is retiring after 23 years' service in the Education Department, has also exhibited his line drawings, paintings and sculpture at the City Hall where his work is included in the permanent collection.

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