



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Transcript of the Governor's media session

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Following is the transcript of the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's media session after attending the International Federation of Journalists regional conference this (Monday) afternoon:

Question: Governor, is there anything you would like to say on any issue (inaudible)?

Governor: No, I've made my speech.

Question: You mentioned the Bill of Rights, then what is your response to the CJ's statement on his view on the Bill of Rights?

Governor: The Attorney (General) is studying the CJ's statement and he will consider whether or not he wants to say anything further on the subject.

Question: Governor, just as a question of mechanics, should there for any reason be a vacancy at the level of CJ, what would the process be for filling it?

Governor: The process as set out in the Royal Instructions and Letters Patent. But there is no vacancy.

Question: Would you remind us what that process would be?

Governor: The process is one in which the Governor makes an appointment, with the agreement of the Government in London, after having taken soundings. But, I mean, the question doesn't arise.

Question: What steps will the Government be taking to restore public confidence in the Judiciary, following the CJ's comments?

Governor: I don't think that public confidence in the Judiciary has been affected. I certainly hope not.

Question: Mr Patten, could you respond to the Chinese Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen, saying something about the double identities of the Canadian citizens overseas, at the APEC meeting; can you respond to this?

Governor: I saw a number of comments made on right of abode and citizenship issues by very senior Chinese officials over the weekend, and I am not quite sure of the context in which those remarks were made because I didn't entirely follow what all of them meant. But we are discussing right of abode and related issues in the Joint Liaison Group with Chinese officials and I hope that we can reach agreement as soon as possible on a set of recommendations which would be able to command the confidence of people in Hong Kong.

Question: What else do you think Government can do to press for the release of Xi Yang?

Governor: Well, we take opportunities that arise, for example the recent meeting between Malcolm Rifkind, the new British Foreign Secretary, and his opposite number Mr Qian Qichen. We take all opportunities like that to press for information about Mr Xi Yang, and we will continue to do that.

Question: I didn't catch the first part, Sir, but do you think, in the light of the statement made by the Chief Justice, that he should resign? What are your impressions on what has happened and the follow up? Do you think that last week has somehow damaged the Bill of Rights debate in the future?

Governor: No. I think that the events of the last weeks have demonstrated the very solid, substantial, broadly based commitment by people in Hong Kong to the Bill of Rights, which they know is one of the protections of their way of life and their freedom today and in the future. I think everybody must have been extremely impressed by the strength of feeling which the community has shown on this particular issue. I said, before you were able to join us, that the Attorney General, having returned from China now, is looking at the remarks made by the Chief Justice and will consider in due course whether or not a response is required.

Question: Mr Patten, to your very best knowledge, what would be your opinion about the so called New Zealand approach recommended by the CJ?

Governor: My approach is very much what I said in the Legislative Council last week. It is also worth, I think, studying the speech made not very long ago by the President of the Court of Appeal in New Zealand on the similarities, in practise, between the New Zealand and Hong Kong approaches. But I repeat what I said earlier, that I want the Attorney General to have a look at the Chief Justice's remarks and consider whether anything more needs to be said. Obviously, at the end of the day, it is in everyone's interest in Hong Kong that we should have the maximum confidence in the Judiciary and our judicial process, and I hope that we can maintain that.

Question: Will the fact that private conversation was revealed make it much more difficult for senior officials to have private conversations in future during the transition, in the Liaison Group, etc, without fear of being embarrassed?

Governor: I hope not.

Question: Would you care to explain?

Governor: Well, we have, as you know, as a result of the meeting between Malcolm Rifkind and Mr Qian Qichen, got an agreement on the basis of proposals we put forward for informal discussions between our officials and Chinese officials. Those meetings will take place under an umbrella provided by the Civil Service Branch and I don't think there should be any of the sort of problems that you mention. But people wouldn't be human if they didn't note what had happened recently and I dare say learn one or two lessons for themselves. Thank you very much indeed.

Question: Mr Patten, is the British side going to seek any clarification from the Chinese side (on) what Mr Qian Qichen said about the simple declaration -- meant? And do you think it is good news for Hong Kong people that what the PWC suggested that was meant, and it's not necessary to publicise and discuss it?

Governor: I didn't hear the first part of the question.

Question: Is the British Government going to seek any clarification from the Chinese side about what Mr Qian Qichen said about the simple declaration -- you know -- ?

Governor: We will, as I said in reply to an earlier question, be continuing our discussions on right of abode, nationality and related issues, in the Joint Liaison Group. And the sooner we can reach an agreement the better because these are issues which I think concern people, they have personal as well as commercial implications, and the sooner we can sort them out the better. Thank you very much.

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Governor's question-and-answer session

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Following is the transcript of the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's question-and-answer session at the International Federation of Journalists Asia Regional Conference today (Monday):

Question (Jonathan Mersky, Times): You quoted President Havel. Journalists are also writers. According, as you know, to President Havel, there is at least one well known Vietnamese writer in a Hong Kong detention centre. This is a woman who has been sentenced in absentia by her Government, I understand. Is the Hong Kong Government going to be very careful that amongst those being sent back to Vietnam, that there are not potential political prisoners who are writers?

Governor: The Hong Kong Government is going to be very sensitive on that issue, as I shall be explaining in very precise and detailed terms in a response to the letter which President Havel wrote to me.

Question (Aidan White, Secretary General, International Federation of Journalists): I was very glad to hear you speak, Mr Governor, and I must say agreed with almost everything you said. But I want to put a question regarding the future in Hong Kong and the conditions within which journalists and media will have to operate. To what extent can we rely upon the economic liberalism that you talked about, which has been so significant in other parts of the region, when unfortunately very, very serious signals of a different approach are sent to the incoming administration in China when a major multi-national company decides to censor the news and information it's going to put into China through its satellite broadcasts in order to meet what are the political objections which exist in China to free information? Can really the free market protect in Hong Kong, freedom of expression and the freedom of the press in the way that you have described it?

Governor: I was very impressed a couple of years back when one of the world's biggest, maybe I should say greatest, media proprietors made a moving speech, I think in Australia, saying that satellite television, spreading information, taking information to everyone's hearth and home was one of the reasons why totalitarianism had had its day and that totalitarian governments could no longer survive and I thought that that was a very meaningful and I'm sure passionately felt speech. Whether it's had any managerial or commercial implications, it's not of course for me to say.

When our main satellite television station was taken over, it did unfortunately, we were told for commercial reasons, lose the BBC World Service. It was taken over by a Western based company. I'm delighted to say that the BBC World Service re-emerged shortly thereafter on a cable service owned by a local Chinese entrepreneur. So maybe that raises one or two questions about the relationship between Western values and Asian values. I'm not quite sure.

I do feel extremely strongly that just as human rights are universal, so the responsibilities of owners and management in the media are universal as well. I don't know how you can make passionate speeches or declarations about freedom of speech when you're addressing shareholders in Europe or North America but behave totally differently when you're running your service in Asia or Africa or another part of the world. I think that universality should apply both to the commercial ethics of media proprietors as well as to the rights which, whose expression has made many of them so passingly well off.

Question: Governor Patten, do you think that freedom of the press and other rights can survive in Hong Kong without the Bill of Rights? Are they protected sufficiently under the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law, in your opinion?

Governor: They are protected in the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law and don't forget that it's not the Bill of Rights which is entrenched, it's the International Covenants, which themselves give guarantees to freedom of speech, which are entrenched in Hong Kong's constitution, both before and after 1997. But if today we're faced with threats, or some would have it that they were promises, that laws would be put back on the statute book, which were clearly infringing the International Covenants, then I'm not sure what signal is being sent in those circumstances about a commitment to free speech, a free media, after 1997. But it's the International Covenants which, entrenched in the Basic Law for example, guarantee freedom of press after 1997, as well as the agreements freely entered into and tabled at the United Nations in the Joint Declaration.

Question (Frances Moriarty, RTHK): On the question of the proposals that you've made to China, one understands that these are diplomatic at the moment, but there is considerable concern about the Official Secrets Act and what we would have after 1997, as well as the question of sedition etc., as you know, that you have to pass laws on. Are you able to comment in at least any kind of global sense on the kind of principals that you would be applying in bringing proposals to the Chinese?

Governor: I can only refer in a broad sense and say that the proposals we've put to the Chinese are based, of course, on principals which are entirely consistent with the Joint Declaration and the International Covenants. You are dealing here with concerns which I don't seriously think bother anybody before 1997. We have an Official Secrets Act on our statute book which is based on the former British Law. It may be of some relevance that, I believe I am right in saying, that it's never actually been used which perhaps give some indication of the extent to which the concerns apply to the future rather than the present. But as part of our adaptation of law's exercise we've drawn up proposals which we think would make sense in today's circumstances in Hong Kong and which certainly are in line, as I said earlier, with the sacred texts and I hope that we receive a sensible response and a constructive response from the Chinese side.

Question: Governor,you will have time to introduce an access to information law? A number of organisations people regard it as a matter of urgency. Will you have time?

Governor: What we've proposed and what we're applying is a non-statutory code which has so far worked extremely well. One or two of our newspapers have tested it and the Morning Post did so in an article a few months back and I think was favourably impressed by the responses that are received. It's been tested over 200 times by individuals and in most cases I think they would regard the consequences as having been satisfactory. We're moving quite a long way, pretty rapidly, in Hong Kong and all the time trying to balance the efficiency and continued effectiveness of Government with the importance of opening up Government and making it more accountable and I think on the code of practice which was drawn up with the advice of Canadian consultants who'd been much involved in freedom of the press, freedom of Government information issues in Canada, I think that that code is working pretty well and is the right way forward for the time being.

Question (Lucy Chan, Apple Daily): You know a case for Apply Daily may be heard in Hong Kong but not heard in the world and in the Asia Regions. For our newspaper we were forbidden to cover news in China for half a year, since we start our newspaper. So can Hong Kong Government do anything on that and what kind of train is now threatening Hong Kong news media things? Like we are not allowed to go there and may not be allowed in the future.

Governor: To go to China?

Question (Lucy Chan, Apple Daily): To cover news. We have no permission.

Governor: Well, I'm not sure whether it's the view of Apple Daily that it would greatly help your editors or journalists for me to intervene personally with the New China News Agency on your behalf. I will only say in general that I think that all countries, all communities, show more self-confidence, with all the consequences of that, when they allow newspapers of every sort to cover their activities and their affairs and I'd also bet my last dollar that whatever prohibitions you find yourselves working under, haven't stopped you carrying large amounts of footage on what's happening in China.

Question (Kam, Cable TV): My question is sort of similar to Lucy's question and you talk about Xi Yang in your release just now and then I first want to ask you whether you are aware that currently there's numerous short term detention of, you know, reporters going back to Southern China or Northern China, whatever part of China to report, for about six hours, eight hours, something that like? Interrogation, things like that. Do you find it as a way of threatening Hong Kong journalists in the run up to 1997, and also what can the Government do about that?

Governor: Well, if there are particular cases involving Hong Kong residents or Hong Kong citizens, and there are distinctions between what we can do whether it's a resident or a citizen, but if there are particular cases, then we would want to know about them and take them up, for example through the Foreign Office or through the Embassy in Peking. I think it would be both short-sighted and inefficient were such selective harassment taking place, which I hope isn't true.

Let me give you one example of why I think it would be short-sighted and ineffective. What is going to happen here in 1997, is one of the biggest stories of the decade, one of the biggest stories of our generation. Particularly important because many people believe that the story of Hong Kong will be absolutely at the centre of the story of the next stages of economic and social development in China. I think that in the light of that it won't surprise any of you and shouldn't surprise any of British or Chinese officials to learn that the eyes of the whole world will be on Hong Kong and there will be an awful lot of eyes. You won't be able to move for television cameras and distinguished columnists who will all be coming to find out from you what's going on while using their own by-lines. Huge, huge attention will be given to Hong Kong. There's nothing that can stop that, there's nothing that can stop the world reporting what happens here in Hong Kong in 1997, in 1996, and I have to say in 1998 and thereafter as well. So I think that it's not a very original observation to make but freedom of speech is here to stay.

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Diversified provision of elderly services necessary

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Following a comprehensive review of Hong Kong's elderly services, the Government has adopted an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach towards the future development of these services, the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, said today (Monday).

Addressing the opening of the Fifth Asia/Oceania Regional Congress of Gerontology, Mr Patten said: "On policy formulation, a team has been set up in the central government branch responsible for health and welfare matters to oversee and co-ordinate matters relating to the elderly.

"It should ensure a better interface between government and non-government services, and a more efficient use of resources to meet the varying needs of elderly people."

While agreeing that it was important to provide services directly or to subvent others to provide services for the elderly, the Governor said such services should not be the exclusive domain of the public sector.

Mr Patten said public provision should be targeted at those in greatest need and least able to help themselves.

"There is a major market out there for the private sector to provide services for the elderly on a cost recovery or profit-making basis," Mr Patten said.

"People able and willing to pay more to receive better services are not currently well served in Hong Kong.

"To encourage the voluntary and the private sectors to think seriously about providing self-financing services for elderly persons who can afford to pay, we have set up a \$200 million Elderly Services Development Fund.

"Grants will be made to establish residential or community support services for the elderly to be maintained afterwards on a self-financing basis."

Mr Patten said diversifying from the standard base of government provision was necessary.

"If we are to be able to afford to provide the full range of services needed for our ageing population, we must find a way, as has been done successfully elsewhere, to harness the energy and resources of the non-government sector to complement the public sector in meeting these needs," the Governor added.

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Chief Secretary to visit Europe and Singapore

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The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, will leave Hong Kong on Friday (November 24) for a 12-day visit to Milan, Rome, Paris and Singapore.

Mrs Chan will first visit Milan where she will call on President of the Lombardy Government, Dr Roberto Formigoni and have a meeting with the Chairman of Italy-Hong Kong Association, Mr Mario Boselli. She will speak at a lunch hosted jointly by the Italian Institute for Foreign Trade and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

She will begin her visit to Rome on November 28 (Tuesday). While there she will call on President of the Senate in Italy, Prof Carlo Scognamiglio; Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies, Mr Ignazio La Russa and other senior government officials.

Mrs Chan will sign the International Protection and Promotion Agreement (IPPA) with the Italian Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Gardini.

She will leave Rome for Paris on November 29. While in Paris she will call on President of the Senate in France, Mr Rene Morony; President of the National Assembly, Mr Philippe Seguin and other senior government officials.

The Chief Secretary will speak at a luncheon hosted jointly by the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and will sign the IPPA with the French Minister of Economy and Finance, Mr Jean Arthuis.

She will also meet business leaders and a number of influential think tanks in both Rome and Paris.

The last stop of the visit is Singapore where she will speak at the Annual Dinner of the Harvard Club of Singapore on December 4 before returning to Hong Kong on December 5 (Tuesday).

During the visit, she will give a number of interviews to the media including radio and television stations.

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Governor presents insignia and commendations to 118

The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, presented insignia and commendations to 118 people at a ceremony at Government House this (Monday) evening.

Of them, 67 were decorated by the Queen for services to the public, 35 were given the St John Insignia and 16 the Governor's Commendations.

Following is the list of recipients:

CBE

Mr Peter Dennis Antony SUTCH
Mr Joseph YAM Chi-kwong

OBE

Professor CHAN Kai-ming
Lady CHEUNG
Professor CHEUNG Yau-kai
Mr Antony LEUNG Kam-chung

MBE

Mr CHAN Shu-min
Dr Peter CHENG Jui-shan
Mr Osmud GHAFUR
Mr Peter LAU Cheong Hon
Mr LEUNG Sik-hung
Mrs Joyce LI WONG Siu-yung
Miss LING Yau-kam
Mr NG Tat-lun
Mr Thomas POON Quing-tong
Ms Teresa SHUM Yuk-kwan
Mr George YAN Wai-ching

MBE (Military)

Major KEUNG Pak-chung
Staff Sergeant NG Yuk-chiu

QPM

Mr LEUNG Fung-shun

QFSM

Mr TSANG Kwong-yu

ISM

Mr CHAN Sum
Mr FU Sang

CPM

Mr Anthony Kevin McLOUGHLIN
Mr Gilberto Fernando JORGE
Mr Anthony Charles William WIMBUSH
Mr Lawrence CHAN Wing-cham
Mr CHIU Hon-bun
Mr Julian TAI Kwong-yue
Mr LI Ping-hon
Mr YIU Hon-piu
Mr LUK Kam-shing
Mr LEUNG Chi-kwong
Mr WONG Kwok-chu
Mr CHEUNG Shu-tsang
Mr YU Tai-wai
Mr LAI Kin
Mr YUEN Fat-cheong
Mr KONG Chi-tim
Ms HO So-ping
Mr CHAN Wun-pak
Mr TSOI Chak-lau
Mr KO Tai-wai
Mr LAU Shu-lam
Mr TSOI Yu-lum
Mr LAU Kwai-shan
Mr CHEUNG Wang
Mr KWAN Yuk-tong

Queen's Commendation for Bravery

Mr WUT Chi-wai

Badges of Honour

Mr Anson CHENG Kong-ming
Mr CHEUNG Sing-kuen
Mr CHEUNG Yin-tung
Mr CHOI Luk-sing
Ms Maureen CHU Mau-lam
Mrs HO TO Shui-hing
Mr David IP Siu-wo
Ms Anita KWAN Miu-mei
Mr KWOK So
Mr William LEE Ka-chung
Mr LEUNG Kie-yau
Mrs Diana LO LEUNG Pik-luen
Mr MOK Kwong-fat
Mr Giuseppe SALAROLI
Ms SIN Sau-ping
Mr WONG Chai-lok
Mr WONG Sing
Mr YEUNG Chor-hang

Governor's Commendations

Mr Robert Louis YOUILL
Mr AU Sai-kei
Mr TAM Kwok-sing
Mr HO Kai-ming
Mr MUI Chung-yu
Mr MA Kwok-wa
Mr MAU Chi-hung
Mr CHAN Chik-wai
Mr CHAU Kwok-wing
Mr LIU Chung-chi
Mr YU Hoi-ming
Mr KWONG Kwan-ming
Mr KIU Cheung-wan
Mr WONG Ming-fai
Mr Christopher John KERSHAW
Mr Michael Leslie SQUIRES

Order of St John - Commander Brother

Mr Eric HOTUNG

Order of St John - Officer Brothers

Mr Ian Francis Cluny MACPHERSON
Mr CHAU Cham-son
Mr YEUNG Po-kwan
Dr MA Ching-hing
Dr CHAN Kai-shiu
Dr Peter WONG Cho-yiu
Mr LAM Ming-cham
Mr WONG Fat-kee
Mr Alfred POON Sun-biu

Order of St John - Officer Sisters

Mrs Josephine WONG AU YEUNG Mei-wah
Miss Kathleen HO
Miss HO Sui-king

Order of St John - Serving Brothers

Mr HUI Yik
Dr David IP Kai-wah
Dr Peter LO Kai-fai
Mr HUNG Chun-ming
Mr CHAN Nai-ming
Mr HO Wing-yiu
Mr CHAN Nai-kwong
Mr Nelson CHAN Yiu-chung
Mr WONG Siu-keung
Mr TANG Wing-cheung
Mr TANG Wai-hong
Mr CHAN Kam-wing
Mr LEUNG Shu-yin
Mr YUE Chun-tung
Mr LEUNG Wing
Mr Derek POON Kai-chi

Order of St John - Serving Sisters

Miss Rita CHAN Kin-lai
Miss Lesley CHAN See-lun
Miss Elvina WU Chui-fun
Miss WONG Mei-yin
Miss TSE Foon-yee
Miss KWOK Lai-fong

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Value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in September

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The value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand for local production in September 1995 increased by 5% over a year earlier, according to the provisional results of a monthly survey released today (Monday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Comparing September 1995 with September 1994, significant increases in the value of outstanding orders were recorded in the electronic products industry (+17%), the electrical products industry (+16%) and the printing and publishing industry (+16%). Increases in the value of orders were also recorded in the fabricated metal products industry (+10%) and the plastic products industry (+5%). The value of orders for the wearing apparel industry showed little change.

On the other hand, decrease in the value of orders was recorded in the textiles industry (-15%).

Compared with August 1995, and bearing in mind that this comparison may be affected by seasonal factors, the value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in September 1995 decreased by 6%.

The Monthly Survey of Orders-on-hand covers a sample of some 300 manufacturing firms engaging 50 or more workers.

Manufacturers' orders-on-hand refer to orders and parts of orders received earlier by manufacturers for local production which remain unfilled as at the end of the reference month. Orders received by traders not engaged in production are included if such orders are further placed to manufacturers for production locally. However, orders placed to manufacturing firms for production in China and other places outside Hong Kong are not included in this series of orders-on-hand statistics.

A spokesman of the department pointed out that caution should be exercised in interpreting the manufacturers' orders-on-hand figures in a single month. Instead, the trend movement of the series as displayed over a wider span of time points should be looked at.

The survey report for September 1995, at \$6 a copy, is now available for sale at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, Queensway, and at the Census and Statistics Department Publications Unit, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries about the survey results may be made to the Industrial Production Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2805 6441.

The following table shows the year-on-year percentage changes in the value of orders-on-hand in different manufacturing industries.

Percentage changes in the
value of orders-on-hand in

	August 1995 over August 1994 ----- (Revised)	September 1995 over September 1994 ----- (Provisional)
All industries covered in the survey	+6	+5
* Wearing apparel	+3	#
* Textiles	-11	-15
* Electronic products	+17	+17
* Electrical products	+13	+16
* Fabricated metal products	+7	+10
* Plastic products	-10	+5
* Printing and publishing	+15	+16

Changes within +/-0.5%

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Joint statement by central banks

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Governors and senior officials from the central banks and monetary authorities of Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Thailand met informally in Hong Kong today (Monday) to review developments in the financial markets and to examine the opportunities for further co-operation among central banks.

The meeting was hosted by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority to follow up a meeting held on January 21, 1995 in Hong Kong among some central banks to exchange views on currency speculation in the region, and following on discussions on monetary co-operation amongst ASEAN central banks in recent years.

The economies represented at today's meeting have a combined GNP of US\$7,368 billion and foreign exchange reserves of US\$403 billion. In light of the growing inter-dependence in trade and investment among these economies and the globalisation of financial markets, the meeting reaffirmed the importance for the central banks to enhance co-operation to maintain currency stability and improve the integrity and stability of the banking system.

The meeting discussed ways to improve co-operation amongst the central banks to deal with volatile capital flows. It agreed that one useful form of co-operation was the exchange of information and liquidity enhancement in the form of bilateral repurchase (repo) agreement between central banks.

On this occasion, the central banks from Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand signed among themselves bilateral memoranda of understanding on the repo of US dollar government securities to provide liquidity on a bilateral basis. Other central banks also discussed and will explore the possibilities of entering into such liquidity agreements.

Governors and senior officials of the central banks of China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and the Philippines also attended the signing ceremony.

End/Monday, November 20, 1995

Three CSD officers commended by the Governor

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Three Correctional Services Department (CSD) officers, who saw action at Vietnamese Migrants (VMs) camps transfer exercises earlier this year, today (Monday) received Governor's Commendations.

An Assistant Officer II, Mr Wong Ming-fai, is the first rank-and-file member of the CSD awarded with the commendation. He joined the department in 1982 and was transferred to the Emergency Support Group (ESG) in 1992.

Both Mr Wong and a Principal Officer, Mr Kwong Kwan-ming, were commended for their courage and tenacity displayed during an operation to remove VMs from Section One of the Whitehead Detention Centre on May 20.

Mr Kwong joined the CSD in 1974 and is currently the Tactical Training Officer at CSD's Staff Training Institute.

An Officer, Mr Kiu Cheung-wan, was commended for his exemplary courage and leadership displayed during an operation to remove VMs from High Island Detention Centre for orderly repatriation on May 11.

Mr Kiu joined the department in 1976 and was posted to the ESG in 1992.

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Gifted education proposed for teacher training

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The Board of Education has suggested that, in order to develop local expertise in gifted education, plans should be explored to introduce long-term teacher development programmes on this topic and to include gifted education as a module in initial teacher training.

Speaking at a Board of Education meeting today (Monday), an Assistant Director of Education, Mr Julian Y M Leung, noted that major conversion work of the Fung Hong Chu Gifted Education Centre in Tsuen Wan was completed last June. Installation of equipment is now in progress.

"Although the centre is not yet fully equipped, activities are already being conducted at the centre," he said.

"It is the first and only resource centre on gifted education. The centre aims to serve all identified gifted children, their parents and teachers. It also serves as a base for research studies on giftedness and gifted education."

The centre's facilities are open for use by all identified gifted children, their parents and teachers through application by schools concerned or referrals from the Psychological Services Section of the Education Department.

Members of the Board of Education were also told that two research studies on gifted education had since been launched, one on the adaptation of assessment tools and the other on the distribution of academically-gifted children.

The first research project on the adaptation of the Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking for use with local children started in October 1992, with all field work studies completed in October 1994.

The final report and the test manual are being studied by the Education Department. These adapted assessment tools will form part of the assessment battery for identification of giftedness by educational psychologists.

The research project on the distribution of academically-gifted children in local primary schools started in October 1993. The study will be completed by the end of this year.

In addition, a three-year pilot school-based programme for academically-gifted children commenced in 1994-95 in 19 voluntary primary schools.

Mr Leung said that in the first year, programmes were provided for Primary 3 to Primary 5 students.

"It will be extended to other class levels in the second year and to secondary schools in 1996-97 when the initial batch of students have completed Primary 6."

"The project will be evaluated for effectiveness before future developments are planned," he continued.

He added that action was being taken to set up a professional team in 1995-96 with educational psychologists, education counsellors and curriculum development officers to support this school-based programme.

Meanwhile, members of the Board of Education noted a progress report by the Committee on Home-School Co-operation.

Members shared the view that with the current reforms put forward by the Government in devolution of power and the cultivation of a customer-oriented culture, it is inevitable that home-school co-operation will become more important and Parent-teacher Associations will have a greater part to play in future school management as well as in community building.

On prevocational education, the Director of Education, Mr Lam Woon-kwong, said the Education Department would conduct a review as recommended by the Governor in his recent Policy Address.

"The Education Department has collected views from various people involved in prevocational education. These views will form the basis of the forthcoming review," Mr Lam said.

"The findings of the review will be issued to the Board of Education and Curriculum Development Council for discussion."

Mr Lam noted that there were similarities between prevocational and technical education. Therefore, technical education will also be included in the review.

It is expected that the review will be completed by mid-1996.

Meanwhile, members of the Board agreed that three delegations should be sent to the United States; Japan and Korea; and Scandinavian countries respectively over the next few months. These study tours will focus on educational aims, the whole-school approach to counselling and compulsory education.

End/Monday, November 20, 1995

Contractor fined for unsafe demolition

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Registered contractors are today (Monday) reminded again of their duties to ensure safety on building and demolition sites.

"Under the Buildings Ordinance, they have the responsibility to supervise and ensure that all building and demolition works are carried out in a safe manner and in compliance with the plan approved by the Building Authority," the Assistant Director (Legal and Management) of the Buildings Department, Mr Cheng Wei-dart, said.

Mr Cheng made the remarks when commenting a case heard at the Eastern Magistracy early this month.

The contractor William Construction Company and one of its employees were convicted of charges of carrying out demolition work in a dangerous manner and the absence of precautionary measures at a site in Thomson Road, Wan Chai.

Both pleaded guilty to all the offences. William Construction Company was fined a total of \$65,000 and the employee \$40,000.

"The Buildings Department expect contractors to observe safety rules. We will take legal action whenever these rules are violated," Mr Cheng said.

End/Monday, November 20, 1995

Water storage figure

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Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 98.6 per cent of capacity or 577.891 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 517.628 million cubic metres of water, representing 88.3 per cent of capacity.

End/Monday, November 20, 1995

Tender for the 7-Year exchange fund notes

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The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announces today (Monday) that tender for the first issue of 7-year exchange fund notes will be held next Monday (November 27) for settlement on Tuesday (November 28).

An amount of \$500 million 7-year notes will be offered. Another \$100 million will be held as reserve by HKMA for supply to market makers in the secondary market.

The notes will mature on November 28, 2002, and will carry interest at the rate of 6.82% per annum payable semi-annually in arrears. Terms and conditions of the issue are described fully in the information memorandum.

Members of the public who wish to tender for the first quarterly 7-year notes may do so through any of the market makers or recognised dealers on the published list which can be obtained from 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 first issue of 7-Year exchange fund notes:

Issue number	: 7211
Tender date and time	: Monday, November 27, 1995 9.30 am to 10.30 am
Issue and settlement date	: Tuesday, November 28, 1995
Amount on offer	: \$500 million plus an additional \$100 million as reserve stock for the Monetary Authority
Maturity	: Seven years
Maturity date	: November 28, 2002
Interest rate	: 6.82% per annum payable semi annually in arrears
Interest payment dates	: May 28, 1996, Nov 28, 1996 May 28, 1997, Nov 28, 1997 May 28, 1998, Nov 30, 1998 May 28, 1999, Nov 29, 1999 May 29, 2000, Nov 28, 2000 May 28, 2001, Nov 28, 2001 May 28, 2002, Nov 28, 2002
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/Monday, November 20, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
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Opening balance in the account	1,221	0930	+253
Closing balance in the account	2,077	1000	+255
Change attributable to :		1100	+255
Money market activity	+256	1200	+256
LAF today	+600	1500	+256
		1600	+256

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.4 *+0.1* 20.11.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.47	2 years	2711	5.60	99.95	5.71
1 month	5.48	3 years	3810	6.15	100.65	5.99
3 months	5.50	5 years	5009	6.95	101.98	6.57
6 months	5.54	5 years	M502	7.30	101.01	7.18
12 months	5.54					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$6,163 million

Closed November 20, 1995

End/Monday, November 20, 1995