



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Friday, May 10, 1996

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Governor Christopher Patten meets President Clinton

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, today (Thursday, May 9, Washington time) met with President Clinton at the White House.

Briefing reporters following what he termed "a very good meeting" with President Clinton, Mr Patten said that he had set out for the President some of the arguments for unconditional MFN renewal that he had been saying on Capitol Hill during his stay in Washington D.C. for the past couple of days.

Mr Patten said he told President Clinton that Hong Kong needed to see MFN renewed.

"That not to do so would be extremely damaging to Hong Kong. If MFN isn't renewed, if MFN is conditioned, we could lose up to 100,000 jobs and halve our growth rate, and see a savage blow to confidence in Hong Kong, and that would be, I think, a very severe blow at this particular moment," he said.

Mr Patten started the day with a breakfast meeting with US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher and State Department officials. He also had a meeting with US Secretary for the Treasury, Robert Rubin.

The Governor briefed leading representatives of the US media at a forum organised by the Washington-based Freedom Forum, and at a lunch meeting with the editor and writers from the Washington Times. He was later interviewed by Rowland Evans and Bob Novak for CNN.

During the evening (Washington time), Mr Patten flies across the country from Washington D.C. to Seattle for the final leg of his North American tour. He will leave Seattle to return to Hong Kong on Friday, May 10 (US time).

End

Transcript of the media session by the Deputy to the Governor

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Following is the transcript of the media session by the Deputy to the Governor, Mrs Anson Chan, after visiting Police and Correctional Services officers who were injured at the Whitehead incident early this (Friday) morning:

Mrs Chan: Good afternoon everyone. I've just come from visiting five officers from the Correctional Services Department and from the Police Department who were injured in the incident at Whitehead this morning. I think the incident and the behaviour of inmates, particularly resorting to violence and causing damage to life and limbs and property is deplorable behaviour which we will not tolerate. But the staff of the Correctional Services Department and the Police Department have acted with their usual restraint, courage and good sense, and the situation now in Whitehead is under control. I've just received a full briefing from the Commissioner of Correctional Services and from the Deputy Commissioner of Police. Of course, we are all very sorry that staff have been injured during this incident, but I stress again that they have exercised with the greatest restraint and with the greatest courage. And I'm sure everybody in the community would join me in commending their behaviour and wishing them a very speedy recovery. I've heard from the doctors that the injury that they sustain is not serious and happily most of them can be discharged either today or tomorrow. I want also to make it clear that we remain as determined as ever to repatriate all Vietnamese migrants to Vietnam as soon as possible. This incident has not lessened our resolve to encourage more voluntary repatriation and to step up momentum on the orderly repatriation programme. We have today removed 900 inmates from Whitehead to High Island and we'll be continuing this exercise tomorrow.

Question: Some people suggested that the Correctional Services actually provoked the violence by moving these people around and into crowded prisons, unnecessarily causing ...?

Mrs Chan: Let me refute that very categorically. There's no basis to this accusation. The staff of the Correctional Services Department work under extremely trying conditions in these camps; they do the best job they possibly can and I don't think that their behaviour on this occasion can in anyway be criticised. They put their own life at risk but they are extremely dedicated to their work. I have only the highest praise for the way in which they have performed their work this time.

End

Standing Commission's report published

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The Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service, chaired by Sir Sidney Gordon, has published its Progress Report for 1995 (Report No 32).

During the year, the Commission tendered advice to the Governor on two proposals which led to the revision of salary scales for the Social Work Assistant grade and that for the Supervisor of Typing Services grade.

The Commission also commented on a proposal to improve the Technical Inspectorate grades and discussed a report by the Administration on the progress of the Government's office automation programme and its impact on the future provision of secretarial services in the civil service.

In keeping with past practice, the Commission continued to hold informal discussions with major staff associations to keep itself abreast of major issues of concern to civil servants.

The 1995 Progress Report also gives an account of the 1994-95 pay trend survey and the modifications for the pay trend survey for 1995-96.

The Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service is an advisory body appointed by the Governor to advise and make recommendations on the principles and practices governing pay and conditions of service and salary structure of the non-directorate civil Service, other than the judiciary and disciplined services.

The progress report is now on sale at the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Lower Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

End

Measures proposed to ensure workers' safety

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The Government proposes to empower the Commissioner for Labour to issue suspension and improvement notices in a bid to ensure the safety of workers, particularly those working at construction sites.

Details of the proposal were contained in the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Amendment) Bill 1996 gazetted today (Friday).

Under the Bill, the Commissioner for Labour can issue a notice to proprietors and contractors to suspend immediately any hazardous work or the use of dangerous equipment which is likely to give rise to an imminent risk of serious bodily injury to the workers concerned.

Clear departmental guidelines will be prepared to ensure that consistent standards are applied. A channel of appeal will also be introduced.

A government spokesman explained that under the existing legislation, the commissioner was empowered to issue a notice prohibiting any dangerous trade, industrial process or operation in a workplace.

"However, the commissioner has to apply for a court order from a magistrate to stop the operations of a construction site, or any works or machinery therein, even though he may have reasons to believe that there is an imminent risk to the workers concerned," he said.

"A serious accident could occur in the interim if the risks involved have not been effectively eliminated.

"In the case of a construction site, the situation or process to which the court order relates could have changed, or the process have been completed, because of progress on site. Thus, a court order, by the time it is obtained, may not be very effective."

The spokesman noted that the proposed suspension notice was intended to deal with a situation where workers were exposed to an imminent risk of serious bodily injury. To tackle less serious situation, it was proposed that the commissioner should be empowered to issue improvement notices to require proprietors and contractors to rectify breaches of the law within a specified period.

"We believe that the proposed improvement notice will be seen by all concerned as a more positive and forceful means of enforcing industrial safety than the present system of issuing offenders with advisory letters, since ignoring an advisory letter is not an offence whereas ignoring an improvement notice is.

"An improvement notice should have the effect of encouraging the proprietor or contractor to adopt a more positive attitude by taking immediate measures to improve safety at work, thereby averting prosecution," the spokesman said.

"In the interests of improved industrial safety and given that proprietors or contractors concerned are not required to do anything new, it is considered that the new legislation should come into force immediately," he added.

The proposed maximum penalty for contravening a suspension notice is \$500,000 and 12 months' imprisonment, with an additional maximum fine of \$50,000 per day for every day that the contravention continues.

"These are set deliberately high because of the seriousness of the offence and the imminent risks it poses to life and limb," the spokesman said.

For those who fail without reasonable excuse to comply with the terms of an improvement notice, they are liable to a fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for 12 months.

The spokesman pointed out that the proposed measures were two of the more important recommendations put forward by the Government in a comprehensive review of industrial safety conducted last year. They were supported by the general public and interested bodies including the Labour Advisory Board.

Other legislative proposals, including the requirement for proprietors and contractors to set up a safety management system at the enterprise level, are being drafted.

The Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council on May 22.

End

Elderly to receive grant for social activities

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About 100,000 elderly people will shortly be receiving a flat-rate grant of \$320 to enable them to participate in social and recreational activities.

The grant which forms part of the recommendations of the Review of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, will be paid through the bank autopay system later this month.

This was announced by the Deputy Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mr Bob Wilson, at the Legislative Council Welfare Services Panel this (Friday) morning.

Mr Wilson told the Panel that having taken into consideration views expressed by legislative members and various groups, the Government had decided to pay the grant automatically to all elderly CSSA recipients with no need for the production of receipts.

"We shall continue actively to promote the use of this grant for recreational and social activities," he said, adding that involvement in such activities provides valuable social networking support to the vulnerable elderly.

End

Government commissions study on needs of the elderly

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The Government has commissioned a consultancy study on the needs of elderly people for residential care and community support services.

Announcing this today (Friday), a spokesman for the Health and Welfare Branch said the Deloitte and Touche Consulting Group has been appointed for the job.

The Group will conduct a comprehensive survey to examine the health status and socio-economic characteristics of a cross section of elderly people in Hong Kong for the purpose of assessing their needs for residential care and community support services.

"It will assess whether the needs of the elderly are adequately met by existing services, whether these services need modification or new services need to be provided and how resources can be most effectively deployed to provided the services required," the spokesman said.

"The consultant's team brings together a wide range of expertise in welfare, medical, health and financial matters. The aim is to apply the best of local and international expertise to address the issues concerned," he added.

In addition to their extensive overseas experience, Deloitte has contracted out the execution of the major study to a team of respected academics from the University of Hong Kong comprising Professor Nelson Chow, Dr Iris Chi and Professor Y H Cheng.

Professor Chow and Dr Chi have also been retained as advisers for the full term of the study.

The \$7.6 million consultancy study is expected to last for 12 to 15 months.

The Secretary for Health and Welfare will chair a working group to steer and monitor the consultancy. In addition to Government officials and the Chief Executive of the Hospital Authority, the group will have three members drawn from outside the public sector, Professor Edward Chen, Miss Nora Yau and Mr Michael Lai. They all have important experience of elderly care issues in Hong Kong.

End

Hong Kong Shipping Register enjoys steady growth

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The autonomous Hong Kong Shipping Register, now in its sixth year, is growing steadily at about five per cent a year and the total tonnage placed on the register has recently reached nine million gross registered tonnes, the Director of Marine, Mr Ian Dale, said today (Friday).

It has gained considerable support from both Hong Kong and China-based ship owners, as well as some major players in Europe, he added.

Speaking at a luncheon hosted by the Hong Kong Shipowners Association for members attending the 25th Annual General Meeting of the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (Intertanko), Mr Dale said the Hong Kong Shipping Register would continue to operate effectively, efficiently and, most importantly, safely for at least 50 years after 1997.

"The authority for the Hong Kong Register is included in both the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Basic Law," Mr Dale said, adding that it was the only register that was formally recognised at the United Nations, where the Sino-British Declaration was deposited.

Briefing Intertanko members on Articles 124 to 127 of the Basic Law, which related to shipping, Mr Dale said that it was cleared that Hong Kong would continue to exercise the same maritime laws and policies after 1997 as it did now.

He assured his audience who together control and operate more than 90 per cent of tankers around the world that "nothing will change after 1997".

Mr Dale said that the Hong Kong Shipping Register was not a cheap register but neither was it the most expensive.

It was a quality register, he stressed, noting that Hong Kong was not classed as a flag of convenience by the International Transport Workers Federation.

Much of the inspection on the ships on the register is undertaken by surveyors from the Marine Department or surveyors from one of the seven main classification societies which are contracted by the Marine Department to undertake the work on its behalf.

Turning to the latest picture of the port of Hong Kong, Mr Dale said that Hong Kong handled 167 million tons of cargo and 12.6 million twenty-foot-equivalent containers in 1995.

More than 41,000 ocean-going vessels plus 108,000 coastal cargo vessels, and 64,000 international passenger craft passed through Hong Kong last year, he said.

Superimposed on this huge level of marine activity were the 16,000 locally licensed vessels which were continually operating all day and everyday within Hong Kong waters, he added.

"The level of marine traffic is enormous by any standards. Averaged out over the full year, it means one vessel on an international voyage enters or leaves Hong Kong every 1.2 minutes," he pointed out.

These numbers are increasing at about 10 per cent a year, posing the biggest problem on the marine traffic management to the Marine Department.

While that it is a nice problem to have, Mr Dale stressed that it is not easy to deal with.

The Director of Marine, being the Manager and Regulator of the port of Hong Kong, must ensure vessels can enter, work cargo, and leave Hong Kong, as quickly, efficiently and safely as possible.

He highlighted two of the activities he undertook in the port towards that objective.

On the first, the Vessel Traffic Management system, Mr Dale said that the Vessel Traffic System (VTS) established in 1989 gives advice, monitors, controls and directs all ocean-going vessels in over 95 per cent of Hong Kong waters.

"To cope with demand the system needs frequently upgrading. This was completed last year, but we are planning further upgrading of the system over the next few years," he said.

"Without doubt the system works. To date, ships rarely if ever suffer delays due to congestion, and the number of serious marine accidents is very low," Mr Dale added.

On the second activity, the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) related work to support the objective of safer ships and cleaner seas, Mr Dale said the implementation of all major IMO conventions by Hong Kong also made Hong Kong a safer port.

Hong Kong is an associated member of the IMO and a signatory to all major IMO conventions. She is also a founder member of the Tokyo Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in 1993 and is very actively involved in increasing ship inspection rate.

End

Aviation Security Bill gazetted

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The Aviation Security Bill, which seeks to establish a statutory framework on aviation security in Hong Kong so that the territory will continue to comply with international requirements, is gazetted today (Friday).

A government spokesman said the Bill aims to localise provisions in UK legislation giving effect to international conventions on aviation security, which are extended to Hong Kong by Orders-in-Council.

"The Bill also seeks to regularise the aviation security arrangements currently applied at Kai Tak Airport through administrative measures," the spokesman said.

Under the proposed legislation, any act or omission on board a Hong Kong registered aircraft, which would constitute an offence in Hong Kong if committed here, or the unlawful seizure of an aircraft in flight or any acts of destruction or violence on board an aircraft which would endanger the safety of that aircraft, will be an offence.

The Bill will establish a statutory Aviation Security Authority and an Aviation Security Programme.

"The Secretary for Security will be designated the Aviation Security Authority and will be responsible for the development, implementation and maintenance of the Aviation Security Programme.

"The Programme will provide guidelines on the aviation security standards required, and the Secretary for Security will be empowered to issue directions as necessary to ensure compliance with these standards," the spokesman said.

An Aviation Security Committee will be established on a statutory basis to advise the Aviation Security Authority on matters relating to aviation security.

Members of the Committee will come from the Government, the Airport Authority and the aviation industry.

The spokesman said both the draft Aviation Security Bill and the draft Aviation Security Programme had been circulated to the industry, including the Airport Authority, the airlines and the airport tenants, for detailed consultation.

"They have expressed general support for both," he said.

"It is our aim to implement the aviation security requirements in co-operation with the industry. Enforcement action will only be taken if a company or person persistently refuses to comply with a reasonable requirement," the spokesman added.

The Bill is expected to be introduced into the Legislative Council on June 5.

End

Teaching kit on "Decision About Sexuality"

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To encourage secondary school teachers to use the teaching kit on "Decision About Sexuality", the Education Department has compiled the Chinese version of the kit and make it more readily to use.

The main objective of the teaching kit is to provide teachers with instructional materials for the development of skills in handling interpersonal relationships and the inculcation of proper attitudes towards certain sexual issues.

Principal Inspector (Biological Sciences), Mr Ho Chung-nin, today (Friday) said: "During critical moments in different stages of life, making decisions about sexuality is inevitable."

"These decisions bring about lasting effects. Appropriately made decisions bring about pleasure and contentment, otherwise, detrimental impact on personality development may result."

The teaching kit highlights the main issues demanding decision-making which arise at various stages of maturity.

The materials are divided into three parts: teacher's manual, students' worksheets and fact sheets.

"In the teaching kit, much emphasis has been placed on advising students to seek parent-child understanding and co-operation in handling issues requiring decision-making.

"Teachers should understand that the family and parents may provide strong support and guidance to young people when they have to make crucial decisions."

He advised teachers to simplify the teaching kit or select suitable items catering the needs and ability of their students.

Each secondary school will be provided with two sets of the Chinese version teaching kit.

The English version was published and issued to schools in 1993.

Meanwhile, the Biological Sciences Section of the Advisory Inspectorate Division of the Education Department will organise two whole-day courses on sex education for primary school teachers on May 30 (Thursday) and May 31 (Friday).

In addition to a discussion with participants on the content and method of sex education in primary schools, the course consists of two talks: "Understanding Puberty" by Dr Chow Ka-wah from the Central Health Unit, Department of Health, and "Overview on Child Sexual Abuse" by Ms Grace Ma from Against Child Abuse.

Relevant circulars and application forms have been sent to all primary schools.

Schools are requested to return their nomination forms to Inspector (Primary Health Education), Advisory Inspectorate Division, Education Department, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, on or before next Monday (May 13).

Enquires about the courses may be directed to the Biological Sciences of the Advisory Inspectorate Division on 2892 6547 or 2892 6548.

End

HAD Co-ordination Centre set up

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A Home Affairs Department Co-ordination Centre has been set up at the Sha Tin District Office from 7 am this (Friday) morning in response to the incident at the Whitehead Detention Centre.

Public enquiries concerning the incident can be directed to the Co-ordination Centre on 2604 8078.

A spokesman for the Home Affairs Department urges residents in Ma On Shan to report any strangers in the neighbourhood to the police.

End

The weather of April

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April was cooler than normal with the mean temperature of 20.4 degrees being 1.8 degrees below the normal figure. The minimum temperature of 10.9 degrees recorded on April 3 was the third lowest on record for April.

Three episodes of heavy rain contributed to most of the month's rainfall which amounted to 228.7 millimetres, 67.2 millimetres above the normal amount. On April 30 the rainstorm red warning was issued for the first time this year.

The cloudy and rainy weather at the end of March continued in April. A surge of the northeast monsoon around mid-day on April 1 brought cooler conditions to the territory.

Temperature dropped to 10.9 degrees, the lowest for the month, on the morning of April 3 and heavy rain started in the evening, lasting until the next afternoon with a total of over 60 millimetres of rainfall recorded at the Royal Observatory.

Winds strengthened from the east in the early hours on April 5. As winds moderated on the following day there were some sunny periods.

The weather became cloudy with periods of light rain on April 8 lasting until April 11 when winds strengthened again from the east. Strong easterly winds persisted up to April 13 while the weather remained generally cloudy to April 15.

There were long sunny periods on April 16 but the weather then became misty as winds became light and turned more southerly. It was cloudy and misty the next couple of days.

On April 19 an active trough of low pressure moved southwards and crossed the south China coast bringing squally thunderstorms and heavy rain to the territory.

Flooding was reported in low-lying areas. There were two traffic accidents during the rainstorm and nine people were injured. A minor landslide occurred in Repulse Bay. The transmission station of Radio Television Hong Kong was struck by lightning and broadcast was off air for 47 minutes.

The weather remained cloudy with light rain patches on April 20 and 21.

Under the influence of a drier airstream, the weather became fine and sunny on April 22. Fine weather prevailed until April 28 when a maritime airstream brought about more clouds. Temperature rose to 28.8 degrees, the highest for the month, on April 29.

An area of heavy rain and thunderstorms moved across the territory on the last day of the month resulting in 14 reports of flooding in Kowloon and the New Territories.

Only one tropical cyclone occurred in the western North Pacific and the South China Sea in the month.

Details of the issuance/hoisting and cancellation/lowering of various warnings/signals in the month are summarised in Table 1.1. Monthly meteorological figures and departures from normal of April are tabulated in Table 1.2.

Table 1.1 Warnings and signals in April 1996

Warnings/Signals	Effective date and time
Strong Monsoon Signals	5 Apr 0430 - 5 Apr 1300
	11 Apr 0500 - 11 Apr 0915
	11 Apr 2315 - 13 Apr 0745
	20 Apr 0400 - 20 Apr 0740
	21 Apr 0445 - 21 Apr 0745

Rainstorm Warning	
Red	30 Apr 1445 - 30 Apr 1615

Flood Warnings	19 Apr 1300 - 19 Apr 1710
	30 Apr 1325 - 30 Apr 1930

Thunderstorm Warnings	1 Apr 1445 - 1 Apr 1645
	19 Apr 0525 - 19 Apr 1725
	30 Apr 1230 - 30 Apr 2030

Fire Danger Warnings	
Yellow	7 Apr 0000 - 8 Apr 1630
Yellow	23 Apr 0910 - 24 Apr 0430

Gas Heater Alert	2 Apr 1630 - 4 Apr 1620

Table 1.2 Figures and Departures from Normal - April 1996

Total Bright Sunshine	82.2 hours; 26.7 hours below normal
Mean Daily Global Solar Radiation	10.46 MJ/SQM; 2.68 MJ/SQM below normal
Total Rainfall	228.7 mm; 67.2 mm above normal
Mean Cloud Amount	81%; 3% above normal
Mean Relative Humidity	82%; 1% below normal
Mean Daily Maximum Temperature	22.8 Degrees Celsius; 2.1 Degrees Celsius below normal
Mean Air Temperature	20.4 Degrees Celsius; 1.8 Degrees Celsius below normal
Mean Daily Minimum Temperature	18.5 Degrees Celsius; 1.7 Degrees Celsius below normal
Mean Dew Point	17.1 Degrees Celsius; 1.9 Degrees Celsius below normal
Total Evaporation	71.4 mm; 35.5 mm below normal

Remarks: All measurements were made at the Royal Observatory except sunshine, solar radiation and evaporation which were recorded at King's Park.

End

Fees for pesticide licensing services revised

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Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) today (Friday) announced that fees under the Pesticides Ordinance will be revised from June 28.

The revision set out in the Pesticides (Amendment) Regulation 1996 will be applied to the application, issue, renewal, extension of pesticide licences and permits, and the application for the registration of a pesticide.

An AFD spokesman said that it was Government policy, in general, to set fees at levels sufficient to recover full costs of providing the services.

The new fees were revised according to the Government Consumption Expenditure Deflators of 1995-96.

Details of the amendment was published in the Government Gazette today.

End

Shenzhen River improvement works

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The Government intends to construct a river channel along part of Shenzhen River to reduce the risk of flooding and to transform part of the existing river into wetland as an environmental mitigation measure.

A total area of 107.5 hectares of foreshore and seabed will be affected.

Work will commence in the first half of next year and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2000.

The extent of area affected is contained in a notice published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

Any person who considers that he has an interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and seabed involved may submit a written objection to the Director of Lands on or before July 10, 1996.

Notice of such objection should describe the interest, right or easement of the objector and the manner in which he alleges he will be affected.

The notice (in English and Chinese) together with related plans can be seen on notice boards posted near the site.

The plan can also be seen at the Lands Department Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong (where copies can be purchased on order); at the North District Office and North District Lands Office, North District Government Offices, 3 Pik Fung Road, Fanling, New Territories.

The plan is also available for public inspection at the Yuen Long District Office, ground floor, Yuen Long District Office Building, 269 Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long, New Territories; and at the Yuen Long District Lands Office, 9th-11th floors, Yuen Long Government Offices, Tai Kiu Market, 2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long, New Territories.

End

Reclamation authorised by ExCo

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The Governor-in-Council has authorised reclamation within an area of about 12.4 hectares of foreshore and sea-bed at Tiu Keng Wan in Tseung Kwan O.

Works will involve dredging of seabed, construction of seawall and reclamation to provide land for residential, commercial, government, institution and community purposes as part of the continuing development of Tseung Kwan O new town.

A government spokesman said the proposed reclamation, together with the cleared land from the Tiu Keng Leng Cottage Area, formed an integral part of the Tseung Kwan O New Town Development and were required for Phase III of the development.

"The Environmental Impact Assessment Study has concluded that the environmental impacts arising from the proposed reclamation can be controlled within the established standards.

"Apart from minor reclamation required for the construction of a temporary access road to facilitate the moving out of residents from the cottage area, the major reclamation work will commence only after the clearance of the cottage area," he said.

The extent of the area affected is contained in a notice published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

Any person who considers that his interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and sea-bed involved will be injuriously affected may submit a written claim for compensation to the Director of Lands on or before May 10, 1997.

He should state in his submission the sum of money he is willing to accept in full and final settlement of his claim and should submit such particulars which he possesses to substantiate his claim.

The notice (in both English and Chinese) together with related plans can be seen at the Lands Department's Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong (where copies can be purchased on order).

It can also be seen at the Sai Kung District Office, second floor, Sai Kung Government Offices, 34 Chan Man Street, Sai Kung, and the Tseung Kwan O sub-office of the Sai Kung District Office, Room 121-122 ground floor, Po Ning House, Po Lam Estate, Tseung Kwan O, Sai Kung.

End

Second autotoll system approved

The Transport Department announced today (Friday) that the second autotoll system - Electronic Toll Collection System (ETS) - will be formally used at Tate's Cairn Tunnel from 12.01 am on Sunday (May 12).

The Government's approval was given following a successful trial since August 1995.

Motorists who choose not to use the ETS when crossing the tunnel can use the manual toll collection booths.

Apart from the ETS which can only be used at Tate's Cairn Tunnel at present, another autotoll system approved for use in tunnels in Hong Kong, Autopass, is now being used at Aberdeen Tunnel, Lion Rock Tunnel, Cross Harbour Tunnel and Eastern Harbour Crossing.

Motorists are advised to use only the autotoll lanes of the autotoll system for which they have subscribed.

Advisory signs for the two different autotoll systems will be erected at the toll booth canopies of the different tunnels to guide motorists in the use of the appropriate autotoll lanes.

End

Draft Lam Tei and Yick Yuen DPA Plan approved

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The Governor-in-Council has approved the draft Lam Tei and Yick Yuen Development Permission Area (DPA) plan, a spokesman for the Town Planning Board said today (Friday).

"The plan will establish a statutory land use framework to provide guidance for planning and to facilitate development control within the Lam Tei and Yick Yuen area in Tuen Mun.

"A draft outline zoning plan is being prepared and will be published to replace the approved DPA plan," he added.

The approved plan (No. DPA/TM-LTY/2) is available for public inspection during normal office hours at :

- * Planning Department,
16th floor, Murray Building,
Garden Road, Central,
Hong Kong;
- * Tuen Mun and Yuen Long District Planning Office,
Level 11, Metroplaza Tower 1,
223 Hing Fong Road, Kwai Fong,
New Territories; and

- * Tuen Mun District Office,
2nd floor, Tuen Mun Government Offices,
1 Tuen Hi Road, Tuen Mun,
New Territories.

Copies of the plan are available for sale at the Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong and the Kowloon Map Sales Office, ground floor, 382 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

End

Work on bridge over Siu Lek Yuen Nullah approved

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The Governor-in-Council has authorised the construction of On Ming Street Bridge over Siu Lek Yuen Nullah in Sha Tin.

The proposed bridge will provide an alternative access to Area 11, the Shek Mun Industrial area and will alleviate congestion of Tai Chung Kiu Road at its junction with Siu Lek Yuen Road and On Lai street.

It will also provide a convenient footpath and bicycle access for workers in Area 11.

Construction will commence in November this year and scheduled for completion in two years.

End

LDC Development Scheme Plan approved

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The Governor-in-Council has approved the Land Development Corporation (LDC) Waterloo Road/Yunnan Lane Development Scheme Plan.

"The plan, which covers an area of about 0.42 hectare, will provide a statutory planning framework to guide LDC in redeveloping the area bounded by Waterloo Road, Portland Street, Man Ming Lane and Shanghai Street, including Yunnan Lane and a section of Shek Lung Street in Yau Ma Tei," a spokesman for the Town Planning Board said today (Friday).

Most of the buildings in the area are six-storey in height and were completed before 1966. They are predominantly used for residential purpose on upper floors with shops, which include metal/electrical workshops and coffin shops, on ground floors.

The approved LDC development scheme comprised commercial development and government/institution/community facilities including a refuse collection point, a public latrine with facilities for the disabled, a hostel for single persons and a day nursery, said the spokesman.

"A sizeable public open space of about 1,650 square metres at the corner of Portland Street and Man Ming Lane will replace the existing small sitting-out area within the area," he added.

"Yunnan Lane and a section of Shek Lung Street will be closed to enable the drawing up of a comprehensive layout for the area. An area fronting Shanghai Street will be designated as a taxi lay-by.

"Meanwhile, a basement car park will be provided under the office building and the public open space with a view to improving traffic condition in the area."

With the approval of the plan, LDC will commence the implementation of the scheme which is expected to be completed by the end of 2001.

The approved plan (No. S/K2/LDC1/2) is available for public inspection during normal office hours at:

- * Planning Department, 16th floor,
Murray Building,
Garden Road,
Central,
Hong Kong;

- * Kowloon District Planning Office,
11th floor, Leighton Centre,
77 Leighton Road,
Causeway Bay,
Hong Kong; and

- * Yau Tsim Mong District Office,
sixth floor, Mong Kok Government Offices,
30 Luen Wan Street,
Mong Kok,
Kowloon.

Copies of the plan are available for sale at the Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong and the Kowloon Map Sales Office, ground floor, 382 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

End

Improvements to roads and drains on Cheung Chau

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The Territory Development Department has proposed works to improve existing roads and drains in Cheung Chau.

Works will involve widening the existing Tung Wan Road and Cheung Chau Hospital Road, the laying of a comprehensive network of sewerage and stormwater drains, the provision of open space, and the construction of a new road between St John Hospital and the helipad on reclaimed land at Cheung Chau.

On completion, the project will improve water quality in Cheung Chau Typhoon Shelter and Tung Wan Beach and alleviate flooding in certain low-lying area.

In addition, the project will also make available an east-west road link on Cheung Chau for access of standard-size emergency vehicles. This will facilitate the delivery of fire and ambulance services in terms of response time.

The Government has exercised care at the planning stage to minimise the extent of land resumption and clearance for the project. Land owners affected will be compensated for land resumption and eligible residents will be rehoused.

Works will commence at the end of this year and scheduled for completion in two years.

End

Tenders invited for architectural projects

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for the construction of a primary school in Area 25, Tsuen Wan.

Works will comprise the construction of a standard design primary school with a total gross floor area of over 7,400 square metres.

The contract will also include piling foundation, drainage and external works.

Works will commence in August this year for completion in December 1997.

Meanwhile, the department is also calling tenders for improvement works to four Regional Council's public toilets currently located in North District, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long and Cheung Chau.

The works will include improvement to toilet facilities, drainage system, ventilation system, lighting, floor surface, as well as signage.

Works will commence in July this year for completion in about six months.

Tender forms and further particulars of both contracts can be obtained from the Architectural Services Department, 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Tender offers for the primary school and the public toilet facilities will close at noon on June 7 and May 31 respectively.

End

High APIs recorded for the territory

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Air pollution indices (API) for the territory have exceeded 100 today (Friday). The API is 105 for the urban area, 108 for the industrial area and 109 for the new development area.

"Today's poor air quality is due to the high respirable suspended particulates levels throughout the territory. We believe it has an association with the strong easterly winds, which blew up the settled dust both in Hong Kong and in the region," the acting Assistant Director of the Environmental Protection Department, Mr Tse Chin-wan, said.

"When the index exceeds 100, people already suffering from asthma, lung or heart illnesses are advised to reduce physical exertion and laborious outdoor activities. The current level should have little effect on a healthy person."

The API forecast for the territory tomorrow (Saturday) is 75 for the urban area, 80 for the industrial area and 75 for the new development area.

Members of the public can check the API readings on 2827 8541.

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	1,680	0930	+522
Closing balance in the account	1,699	1000	+432
Change attributable to :		1100	+432
Money market activity	+419	1200	+432
LAF today	- 400	1500	+419
		1600	+419

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 123.5 *+0.0* 10.5.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.75	2 years	2802	5.16	98.42	6.21
1 month	4.94	3 years	3904	6.30	99.13	6.74
3 months	5.14	5 years	5103	6.75	98.00	7.37
6 months	5.28	7 years	7302	6.02	91.34	7.82
12 months	5.61	5 years	M502	7.30	99.36	7.61

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$15,123 million

Closed May 10, 1996

End