



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
GARDEN ROAD, 5th-8th FLOORS, MURRAY BUILDING,  
HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Dear DIB Clients

I write to thank you for your support over the past years in subscribing to the Daily Information Bulletin (DIB).

In the meantime, I am glad to inform you that DIB has now been uploaded onto the Hong Kong Government Home Page on the Internet (<http://www.info.gov.hk/isd/news/index.htm>) from April 1, 1997.

This arrangement has ensured that existing DIB subscribers as well as the general public can have quicker access to the press releases issued daily by the Hong Kong Government through the Information Superhighway.

Following the upgrading of services, the DIB will no longer be printed in hard copies and distributed by post to subscribers with effect from May 1, 1997.

This decision will do good to the community at large in terms of environmental protection as 3.1 million sheets of A4-size paper will be saved each year, not to mention the saving of postage and large quantity of ink for printing.

If you wish to have the DIB sent directly to your Internet e-mail account, please complete and return the attached slip to GIS, 8th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong, before May 1, 1997 or by fax through 2845 9078. You can, of course, provide your e-mail account to us through our Internet mail account : [isdnews@isd.gcn.gov.hk](mailto:isdnews@isd.gcn.gov.hk).

It is the policy of this department that we should aim at running a paperless office in the long run, but if you have difficulties in the new arrangements, please contact the undersigned at 2842 8738.

*Robert Yip*

(Robert YIP)

for Director of Information Services

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**Return Slip**

To : GIS, 8th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong  
(Attn : Robert Yip)

I would like to receive the Daily Information Bulletin through my  
Internet e-mail account \_\_\_\_\_ from May 1, 1997.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Version of DIB required: English/Chinese/Both



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Sunday, April 13, 1997

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## Lantau Link opens a new transport era

\* \* \* \* \*

Hong Kong will enter a new era in transport when the Lantau Link, comprising two major bridges and a viaduct, opens to traffic in May.

The doubled-decked Lantau Link, built as part of the 34-kilometre transport corridor to the new international airport under construction at Chek Lap Kok, will give visitors a spectacular entrance to Hong Kong.

The Link will be officially opened by the former British Prime Minister, Baroness Thatcher, on Sunday, April 27.

Traffic will be carried on a dual three-lane expressway on the open upper deck. In case of bad weather, traffic can be diverted to two single-lane carriageways on the sheltered lower deck, which will also carry the airport railway.

Vehicles using the Link will be charged tolls, at a toll plaza located on the Lantau side.

Both bridges are the largest of their kind to carry road and rail traffic. The Tsing Ma Bridge, spanning the marine channel between Tsing Yi and Ma Wan islands, has a central span of 1,377 metres while the cable-stayed Kap Shui Mun Bridge, which connects Ma Wan and Lantau islands, has a main span of 430 metres.

"Completion of the Lantau Link gives much satisfaction to the government departments that have been involved, especially the Highways Department, which is responsible for the project, and the New Airport Projects Co-ordination Office, the co-ordinator of the Airport Core Programme projects," said the Secretary for Works, Mr Kwong Hon-sang.

"This is understandable as Hong Kong has never built such long-span bridges before and, in a way, we have emerged with great success from our venture into the unknown, thanks to the efforts of all concerned," said Mr Kwong, who served as the first Project Director of the Highways Department's Lantau Fixed Crossing Project Management Office, and then as Director of Highways before taking up his present post in 1995.

"It has been a great achievement, considering that the two contracts to build the bridges were only awarded in 1992. That we have been able to get the job done on target, and within budget, is also a tribute to the expertise of the consulting engineers, the designers and the builders," he said.

Mr Kwong said that three crucial stages in building the Tsing Ma Bridge were construction of the towers, which are more than 200 metres in height, spinning of the huge suspension cables and erection of the 1,000-tonne sections for the suspended deck.

"We were able to keep much to schedule in these phases. We were blessed with fairly good weather, and on only one occasion did a typhoon pose a threat," he said.

"Building the concrete towers was a big job, and once each tower was slipformed, in only about three months in 1993, we really felt we were halfway towards completion of the bridge."

Erecting the deck was a challenging undertaking, but after the first section had been raised, the entire exercise went smoothly, lasting from August 1995 to March 1996.

The sections were assembled near Dongguan in southern China, out of prefabricated parts made in Britain and Japan and transported by barge down the Pearl River.

The steel in the deck weighs 55,000 tonnes. The length of the individual steel wires that make up the 1.1-metre suspension cables is enough to go round the Earth four times. The cables themselves are restrained in massive anchorages at either end, in which the concrete weighs up to 250,000 tonnes.

The bridge has been built by the Anglo Japanese Construction Joint Venture, under a \$7.1 billion contract which is the third largest in the entire Airport Core Programme.

The Kap Shui Mun Bridge has been built under a "design and build" contract, a task that posed its own special challenges for the contractor, the Kumagai-Maeda-Yokogawa-Hitachi Joint Venture, but it too went smoothly once work began.

Construction of the 150-metre concrete towers was accomplished in good time, clearing the way for erection of the composite concrete and steel deck, which began in May 1995, and was also completed in March 1996.

The Lantau Link and its associated road network have been designated a control area, to maintain safe and efficient traffic operations on it. The control area is equipped with a sophisticated computer-based Traffic Control and Surveillance System.

"It is the first time that a system of this kind covers such a large area. The system contains a lot of state-of-the-art techniques and in many ways it is one of the most advanced systems in the world," said Mr Kwong.

The control area includes about 17 kilometres of the airport transport corridor stretching from the Mei Foo Interchange at the start of the Kwai Chung Viaduct section of Route 3 to the Yam O Interchange on the North Lantau Expressway.

This includes the Kwai Chung Viaduct, the Rambler Channel Bridge, the Cheung Ching Tunnel and the Lantau Link and the North-West Tsing Yi Interchange which connects the airport road network to the Route 3 highway also under construction.

The control area's \$242 million Traffic Control and Surveillance System will enable the private sector management contractor to deal efficiently with normal traffic operations and to exercise a high degree of automation for traffic management and control under most situations.

These situations may include vehicle breakdowns, road works, strong winds and other adverse weather conditions. In addition, variable message signs give drivers traffic information as they pass through the control area.

The main control centre is housed in the North West Tsing Yi Administration Building. The system's equipment includes closed circuit television, automatic incident detectors, automatic weight detectors, environmental sensors, emergency telephones, vehicle overheight detectors, variable traffic signs, land control signals and radio re-broadcast facilities.

End

#### Television programme on water quality misleading

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The result of electrolysis of water which appeared on a television programme a few days ago was totally untrue, a spokesman for the Water Supplies Department said today (Sunday).

The spokesman was commenting on a television programme last Thursday (April 10) night which showed a television actress performing a so-called experiment on treated water.

"The whole process was just a gimmick and the results shown were untrue and misleading. Members of the public should not believe what was said and shown about water quality in the programme," he said.

The spokesman assured the public that water supplied to consumers was fully treated through a rigorous water treatment and disinfection process.

"Its quality is closely monitored by regular and frequent testing of water samples taken from all strategic points of the water supply system including the pumping stations, service reservoirs, sump and roof tanks of buildings and consumer taps and complies fully with the World Health Organisation's Guideline Standards for drinking water," he stressed.

End

#### Contractor fined over mishap

\* \* \* \* \*

A registered contractor has recently been convicted and fined \$40,000 for failing to provide adequate shoring while carrying out alterations and addition works at a Cheung Sha Wan building which led to injury of a worker.

A female worker was trapped and seriously injured when a partly-demolished internal staircase linking the tenth and eleventh floors of the building collapsed on January 23 last year.

To provide guidance on the safe execution of demolition works, the Buildings Department is preparing a Code of Practice on Demolition works.

The Assistant Director of Buildings (Legal and Management), Mr Cheung Hau-wai, said this Code would be issued by the end of the year to improve safety at demolition sites.

"Building contractors should adopt adequate precautionary and protective measures on their sites to ensure the safety of workers, adjacent properties and members of the public," he said.

Meanwhile, to step up supervision and safety of all building sites, including demolition sites, by clearly spelling out the parties responsible for safety of site works, the department would introduce a site supervision plan system at the end of the year.

Mr Cheung said a consultancy firm was commissioned in late January to prepare a Technical Memorandum and a Code of Practice for the site supervision plan system.

"The supervision plan will include a comprehensive management system on site safety specifying how the site works are to be managed and the supervisory responsibilities of the building professionals and all other personnel engaged in the building works.

"The Technical Memorandum which will be subject to legislative procedures will lay down the system and framework for the supervision and management requirements," he said.

"The department will take a serious view of any future cases of carrying out or permitting the carrying out of demolition or any other building works in a dangerous manner," he said.

End

#### Employment agencies must be licensed

\* \* \* \* \*

The Labour Department reminded those intending to operate employment agencies to apply for licences from the Employment Agencies Administration of the department.

The reminder was made following a recent court case in which a tuition centre was fined \$4,000 at the South Kowloon Magistracy for operating as an employment agency without a valid licence.

"Tuition centres would be regarded as employment agencies if their business involves arranging job-seekers to be employed by the students' parents, or in recruiting tutors for the parents. They should therefore apply for an employment agency licence and must comply with Part XII of Employment Ordinance," Labour Officer (Employment Agencies Administration), Mrs Lourdes Lam, said today (Sunday).

"Operators have to apply for employment agency licence at least one month before starting the business. The licence fee is \$1,870 for a main office and \$360 for a branch office.

"Under the Employment Agency Regulations, an employment agency can only charge a successful job-seeker a commission of not more than 10 per cent of his first month's salary. Charging any other fees is strictly prohibited," she added.

Operating an unlicensed employment agency or overcharging a job-seeker is an offence under the Employment Ordinance. The maximum penalty for each offence is \$50,000.

An updated list of employment agencies in Hong Kong is available for public reference at the Employment Agencies Administration on the 12th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central.

Enquiries and complaints on the operation of employment agencies can be made to the Employment Agencies Administration in person or by telephone at 2852 3535.

End

#### Stamps on Hong Kong migratory birds to be issued

\* \* \* \* \*

The Postmaster General, Mr Robert Footman, announced today (Sunday) that a set of special stamps on the theme of 'Hong Kong Migratory Birds' will be issued on Sunday, April 27, 1997.

This set of special stamps depicts four species of migratory birds which come annually to Hong Kong. There will be four denominations: \$1.30 (Yellow-breasted Bunting), \$2.50 (Great Knot), \$3.10 (Falcated Teal) and \$5 (Black-faced Spoonbill). The stamps were designed by Mr Shek Tak Sheun and printed by Joh. Enschede of the Netherlands.

As from tomorrow (April 14), the stamps will be on display for the advance information of the public at the General Post Office, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Tsuen Wan Post Office and Sha Tin Central Post Office. Official first day covers will be put on sale at all post offices at \$1 each as from the same day. Advance orders for serviced first day covers will be accepted at all post offices from April 14 to 19. The minimum number of serviced first day covers per order is five.

Mr Footman added that for the convenience of customers and to minimise the need to queue, a new advance order service for ordering mint stamps will be introduced. Orders will be accepted at all post offices from April 14 to 19, same as for placing advance orders for serviced first day covers. No handling fee is required. There is no limit on the order quantity, but it must be in multiples of five sets and the minimum is five sets. Orders will be available for customers' collection at the post office where they placed the order as from May 20.

A beautifully designed presentation pack containing the four stamps will be available for sale at \$20 each at all post offices as from April 27, 1997.

A restriction of five sheets of stamps of each denomination (viz. 250 sets of stamps) and two presentation packs per customer queuing will be imposed on the first day of issue. Thereafter on subsequent days and where customer queuing persists, the same restriction will continue to be imposed, until stock is exhausted. From the second day onwards, stamp sheets with edges will only be available at the 19 philatelic offices. These edges will be removed in the sale through normal counter.

On the first day of issue, hand-back service will be provided at all post offices to official and privately-made covers bearing indication of the first day of issue on April 27, 1997. A special postmark will also be introduced. Specimen of the special postmark is enclosed. The GPO-1 hand stamp will also be available for hand-back service at the following 19 philatelic offices:

Airport Post Office	Mong Kok Post Office
Aberdeen Post Office	Peak Post Office
Cheung Chau Post Office	Sha Tin Central Post Office
Cheung Sha Wan Post Office	Shau Kei Wan Post Office
General Post Office	Tai Po Post Office
Granville Road Post Office	Tuen Mun Central Post Office
Harcourt Road Post Office	Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office
Hennessy Road Post Office	Tsuen Wan Post Office
Kowloon Central Post Office	Yuen Long Post Office
Kowloon City Post Office	

All post offices will be opened on April 27 and the opening hours will be from 8 am to 4 pm. However, counter services provided will be restricted to sale of the new stamps and acceptance of registered mail only.

Mr Footman also reminded the public that stamps bearing the Queen's head or Royal Cypher will not be valid for the payment of postage after June 30, 1997. They can however be exchanged for an equivalent value of the definitive stamps from July 3 - 31, 1997. Details will be announced closer the time.

End

Lung Yuek Tau Heritage Day commemorative cover on sale

\* \* \* \* \*

A commemorative cover to mark the first major event of the Year of Heritage, Heritage Day in Lung Yuek Tau, has been issued and will be on sale this Tuesday (April 15).

This is the second in a series of special postal items to commemorate the various activities of the Year of Heritage, as well as to raise fund for the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust.

Featuring various major historical monuments in Lung Yuek Tau, the cover bears a HK\$1.3 definitive stamp and the date chop of the Post Office. The logo and slogan for the Year of Heritage, "Treasure Our Heritage, Benefit Our Future", is also highlighted.

The cover, at \$25 each, will be available at the Heritage Resource Centre of the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) at 136 Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, between 9.30 am and 2.30 pm from Monday to Friday. Each purchase is limited to a maximum of 10 until stock lasts.

A limited stock of the first cover to mark the opening ceremony of the Year of Heritage is still available. "It is certainly meaningful to collect a full set of commemorative covers in memory of the year-round campaign," a spokesman for the AMO said.

Further enquiries can be made at 2721 2326.

The Year of Heritage is jointly organised by the Antiquities Advisory Board, the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust, and the Antiquities and Monuments Office of the Broadcasting, Culture and Sport Branch.

End

Fresh water cut in Mong Kok

\* \* \* \* \*

Fresh water supply to some premises in Mong Kok will be suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (April 16) to 6 am the following day for waste detection work on watermains.

The suspension will affect all premises in the area bounded by Nathan Road, Cheung Sha Wan Road, Poplar Street, Boundary Street, Ki Lung Street, Cedar Street, Lai Chi Kok Road and Prince Edward Road West.

End