



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Hong Kong-Japan Partnership moves to Osaka	1
Public and new airport work projects well on track	3
Cantonese language restrictions on Star TV to be lifted	5
"Green" Christmas cards from Marine Department this year	5
Changes of office hours for collection of BN(O) passports	6
Farewell parade for retiring fire chief	8
New TV programme to feature civil service	8
Special Topics Report No 12 on social statistics published	9
San Francisco debut of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra	9
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	10

Hong Kong-Japan Partnership moves to Osaka

* * * * *

Osaka, Japan's second largest city, was treated to a taste of Hong Kong that early morning shoppers may long remember - the sight and sounds of a Hong Kong lion dance through one of the city's major department stores.

The noisy and colourful ceremony marked the start of the Hong Kong-Japan Partnership promotion in Osaka. It was just one of the events in a day highlighted by consumer-oriented promotions and programmes coupled with intensive business seminars at which some of Hong Kong's leading businessmen are participating.

In officially opening the "Hello Hong Kong" promotion in the Sogo department store, the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, mentioned the dominant role Japanese companies played in Hong Kong's department store market.

"The fact that some of these companies have chosen to establish their Asian regional base in Hong Kong is another vote of confidence in our future," she said.

Mrs Chan said Hong Kong made products were becoming increasingly attractive to Japanese consumers because of their good quality, attractive design and packaging, and their value for money - which was one of the most important factors for shoppers anywhere.

In addition to a whole range of products on sale, the promotion also features Chinese finger painting, rainbow calligraphy, fortune telling and chocolate carving.

The store promotion was arranged in conjunction with the Trade Development Council as a feature of the Hong Kong-Japan Partnership programme in Osaka.

The Chief Secretary also had a meeting with the Chairman of the influential Kansai Association of Corporate Executives, Mr Yoshihisa Akiyama.

During the discussions, Mr Akiyama indicated that the Kansai region wanted to further strengthen its business ties with Hong Kong following the establishment of a Business Partner relationship in 1988. He believed this partnership could be expanded with annual meetings between business executives from Kansai and Hong Kong, similar to an arrangement recently forged with Shanghai.

The Chief Secretary later gave a keynote address to more than 600 businessmen at a special luncheon at the conclusion of the seminar.

She again emphasised the importance of the Hong Kong-Japan partnership.

"We have a strong common interest in the maintenance of peace and security in this region. We both depend on open markets, free trade, free shipping lanes.

"We both believe in hard work, family loyalties, the rule of law, the rights and freedoms of the individual and the importance of clean business practices," Mrs Chan said.

In response to a question on the subject of freedom of expression in Hong Kong, Mrs Chan said she was aware of concerns that freedom of expression and freedom of the press might be curtailed after 1997.

However, she made it clear that the Hong Kong Government attached great importance to these "most treasured and most fundamental of freedoms".

She said they were based on the foundation of the rule of law, an independent judiciary and a credible legislature "all of which we have either in place or hope to strengthen between now and 1997".

Mrs Chan pointed out that the Government was engaged in an exercise to remove laws which would be inconsistent with Hong Kong's Bill of Rights and inconsistent with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which would continue to apply to Hong Kong after 1997 under the Joint Declaration and Basic Law.

This evening, Mrs Chan will open the Hong Kong film festival in Osaka which has attracted the attention of hundreds of movie fans with the presence of stars such as Leslie Cheung, Anita Yuen and Carina Lau.

Later tonight the Chief Secretary will speak at a gala dinner which will include a fashion show featuring the creations of some of Hong Kong's young innovative designers.

End/Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Public and new airport work projects well on track

The Public Works Programme and the Airport Core Programme are well on track to provide better and more infrastructural facilities for the betterment of Hong Kong, the Secretary for Works, Mr James Blake, said today (Wednesday).

Speaking at a press conference prior to his retirement, Mr Blake said: "It is gratifying to see that during my four years in office, capital works expenditure grew by 40 per cent in real terms to \$30 billion in 1994-95.

"This represents a 10 per cent annual growth which is set to continue as a firm indication of Government's commitment to invest vigorously in the future of Hong Kong."

On the Airport Core Programme, Mr Blake was confident that the seven projects directly funded by the Government together with the Western Harbour Crossing would be completed before June 30, 1997.

"Works on the Chek Lap Kok new airport are expected to be substantially complete by mid-1997 and those for the Airport Railway by April 1998.

"It remains our target to open the new airport in April 1998 and the Airport Railway in June 1998," he said.

Mr Blake was glad to see significant improvement in the Works Group's performance to meet the expenditure targets.

"For two consecutive years in 93-94 and 94-95, we were able to spend 95 per cent of the budgeted expenditure compared with a 30 per cent underspending in 91-92.

"This has been made possible by a revamp of the monitoring and management system that enables us to detect and rectify more quickly deviations from the original targets.

"We have also put in place a system to enable independent public organisations to act as government agents for the construction and management of major projects under the close monitoring and control of the Government.

"The procedure has been adopted in the construction of the North District Hospital, and Tseung Kwan O Hospital and the extension of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre," said Mr Blake.

Looking back at the last four years, Mr Blake described his job as very fruitful and rewarding.

He said: "There is now greater public input into the Works Policy through the Construction Advisory Board (CAB) with representation from developers, contractors, professional bodies and academic institutions."

CAB is now working towards enhancing safety and other quality standards of the construction industry in Hong Kong.

Mr Blake noted significant progress had been made in instilling in the construction industry a better culture of safety through a "stick and carrot" approach.

"We are now more pro-active in promoting site safety by introducing award schemes for site staff and contractors and more stringent safety requirements in the tender procedure.

"At the same time, we have raised penalties for government contractors who do not pay enough attention on safety. They are now liable to removal from the Government's approved list of contractors for repeated breach of safety requirements.

In his review, Mr Blake gave an update on some of the major projects being undertaken by the Works Group departments as follows:

- * Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme - Works are progressing well on the construction of the sewage collection system and the Stonecutters Island treatment works. The target date of completion is mid-1997.
- * Landslip Preventive Measures - A substantial increase in resources has been allocated to bring forward the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme by 10 years to 2000 and to widen the scope to cover roadside slopes.
- * Flood Control in Northwest New Territories - In parallel with the Shenzhen River regulation work, a \$3.6 billion scheme to improve drainage and to protect low-lying villages in NW-NT from flooding is now well underway for completion by stages over the next seven years.
- * Tung Chung New Town - The development of Tung Chung as the ninth new town for a population of 200,000 in 2010's is progressing satisfactorily.

End/Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Cantonese language restrictions on Star TV to be lifted

* * * * *

The Governor-in-Council has given approval to lift the Cantonese language restrictions on Star TV's Star Plus and Chinese channels.

This follows the recommendations of the Television Broadcasting Review in 1994, which was endorsed by the Governor-in-Council, that the Cantonese restrictions should be lifted.

The Cantonese language restrictions on Star TV's three other channels, ie, the International News Channel, the Music Channel and the Sports Channel, have been removed since October 1993 following the 1992 Television Broadcasting Review. Hutchvision's Licence has been amended to implement the Governor-in-Council's latest decision.

The Broadcasting Authority has been consulted and has expressed support for the removal of the restrictions.

End/Wednesday, September 27, 1995

"Green" Christmas cards from Marine Department this year

* * * * *

Marine Department's latest green initiative will make a major change to the tradition of sending Christmas cards to its local customers.

From Christmas this year the department will send corporate seasonal greetings to them through newspaper advertisements.

"Staff of my department have been discussing how we can be more environmentally friendly during the Christmas season," the Director of Marine, Mr Ian Dale, said today (Wednesday).

"They have made a number of suggestions ranging from not sending any form of greeting to our local customers to producing in-house designed Christmas card using recycled paper.

"We believe we should maintain the tradition of giving local Christmas greetings to our clients during the festive season but not through sending thousands of cards," he said.

It has now been decided that the department will send corporate Christmas greetings through newspaper advertisements. Individual officers can of course also include words of greeting in business memo and letters during the festive season.

"We cannot be sure how much paper we will save but we believe it is definitely a move in the right direction," Mr Dale said.

The Marine Department actively pursues green office practices and is continuing looking for environmentally friendly changes to its systems.

Mr Dale hopes his department's initiative will raise the public awareness of being more environmental friendly, particularly during the festive season.

"Not only is paper saved. Just imagine the secretaries' time that is saved using electronic typewriters or computers to prepare the cards for sending.

"It may be a drop in the ocean in terms of the world as a whole but nevertheless is saving some of our natural resources," he said.

The Marine Department will publish corporate Christmas greetings in some local newspapers nearer to Christmas but will continue this year at least to send cards to overseas contacts as they will not have access to local newspapers.

"We are looking at other alternatives to greet our overseas clients, on internet perhaps, when it becomes more accessible to a wider audience," Mr Dale said.

End/Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Changes of office hours for collection of BN(O) passports

* * * * *

The working hours of the Travel Documents (Passport) Section of some Immigration offices will be revised with effect from next Monday (October 2) to facilitate the collection of BN(O) passports.

A spokesman for the Immigration Department said today (Wednesday) the change of office hours would be applicable at the Immigration Headquarters in Wan Chai and nine Immigration branch offices.

The revised arrangements for the collection of BN(O) passports will be as follows:

Working hours

(except public holidays)

Monday to Friday: normal office hours

Saturday: office hours will be extended to 3 pm.

Offices concerned

-
- (i) Travel Documents (Passport) Section
 - (ii) Immigration - East Kowloon Office
 - (iii) Immigration - West Kowloon Office
 - (iv) Immigration - Sha Tin Office
 - (v) Immigration - Tai Po Office
 - (vi) Immigration - Fanling Office
 - (vii) Immigration - Tsuen Wan Office
 - (viii) Immigration - Tuen Mun Office
 - (ix) Immigration - Yuen Long Office
 - (x) Hong Kong Island Re-entry Permit and Passport Issuing Office

The revised arrangement will run for a two-month trial period and will be reviewed in end November.

The spokesman said: "The revised arrangements will better utilise our resources.

"Applicants who have been notified to collect their BN(O) passports are reminded that for their convenience, they should pick up their passports at the specified office within two months from the date when the passport is ready for collection. "They may be required to collect their passports at another office if they do not do so within the specified period."

For enquiry, members of the public may telephone 2824 6111 or fax 2877 7711.

End/Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Farewell parade for retiring fire chief

* * * * *

Staff of the Fire Services Department will bid farewell to their retiring Director, Mr. Jerry Lam Chek-yuen, in the form of a grand parade at 10.30 am tomorrow (Thursday) at Sha Tin Fire Station. Mr Lam will retire on October 1 after 39 years of service with the Government - 37 of which being with the Fire Services Department.

On parade will be 180 fire and ambulance members from six commands and nine different kinds of appliances and ambulances.

About 400 guests from government departments, local organisations, Chinese and overseas fire brigades will attend the ceremony.

End/Wednesday, September 27, 1995

New TV programme to feature civil service

* * * * *

The Efficiency Unit (EU) of the Government Secretariat, in co-operation with Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), has produced a new 13-episode documentary programme entitled "The New Working Generation".

Featuring personality profiles of officers from various government departments, the programme aims at enhancing the public's knowledge of the service scope and daily works of civil servants.

It will be screened at 7.30 pm every Saturday on TVB Jade Channel, starting this Saturday (September 30).

End/Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Special Topics Report No 12 on social statistics published

* * * * *

Special Topics Report No 12 on social statistics is published today (Wednesday). It contains the findings of six special enquiries conducted by the Census and Statistics Department via the General Household Survey in different periods between August 1993 and October 1994.

The six topics included in the report are domestic helpers; family life education; hawker situation and hawker patronage behaviour; heritage preservation; organ donation; and taxi boarding location.

The report is now on sale at \$40 a copy at the Government Publications Centre, Ground Floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, and at the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

End/Wednesday, September 27, 1995

San Francisco debut of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

* * * * *

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra made its San Francisco debut last (Tuesday) evening in front of 2,700 audiences at the renowned Davies Symphony Hall. The performance is the second leg of its 16-day, first-ever Northern American concert tour.

The Hong Kong Commissioner for Economic and Trade Affairs in the United States of America, Mr Barrie Wiggham, flew in from Washington DC to join hundreds of the Philharmonic's former Hong Kong fans to greet the Orchestra with enthusiasm.

Leading the 106-member Orchestra is British Music Director David Atherton and joining them for the Prokofiev Piano Concerto #3 is Edith Chen, who won the prestigious Iva Pogorelich International Solo Piano Competition in 1993.

After the concert in San Francisco, the Orchestra will travel to the State Capital of California, Sacramento, today for another performance before giving six other concerts in cities in Southern California and Canada.

End/Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million -----	Time (hours) -----	Cumulative change (\$million) -----
Opening balance in the account	2,402	0930	+6
Closing balance in the account	1,971	1000	+6
Change attributable to :		1100	+6
Money market activity	-2	1200	+6
LAF today	-429	1500	-2
		1600	-2

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.3 *+0.0* 27.9.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.82	2 years	2708	6.06	100.13	6.07
1 month	5.77	3 years	3807	6.16	99.64	6.40
3 months	5.75	5 years	5009	6.95	99.84	7.11
6 months	5.75	5 years	M501	7.90	101.84	7.56
12 months	5.77					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$15,214 million

Closed September 27, 1995

End/Wednesday, September 27, 1995