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The Governor's question-and-answer session

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Following is the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's question-and-answer session after his speech at the "Corporate Citizenship in Asia Pacific" Conference organised by the Council on Foundations today (Thursday):

Question: Thank you very much, Governor, a very impressive speech. I am one of the frequent visitors to Hong Kong. I like Hong Kong very much but the question I have is, I guess maybe too broad, but Great Britain is known to have the so-called British disease. Hong Kong, I think, is a very successful economy. What is the difference between Britain and Hong Kong? How have British people been so successful in bringing about this very prosperous economy?

Governor: I think that Hong Kong's success has been based on an extraordinary, almost chemical combination of Chinese virtues and hard work and values which certainly in the past were associated with British economic success too. Adam Smith, after all, was British. Not English - but then no one's perfect. A good Scot.

I think that Hong Kong has worked so extraordinarily well because it's had all the guts and drive of a refugee community. A bit like New York a century ago, I guess. It's had the entrepreneurial nous and guts of Cantonese, Shanghainese, refugees. And three-quarters of the people who live in Hong Kong are refugees from events in China, or the family of refugees from events in China. Combine that energy, that drive, that hard work, that commitment to getting on, to education, to doing better for yourself, combine all that with a framework made up of the rule of law, of the values of an open society like a free press, and add to the mix the most open market economy in the world, and you explain why it is that today, with just six million people, Hong Kong is the fifth largest trading community in the world. It explains why we've managed the social revolution which Hong Kong represents, and the best sort of revolution. There have been a few revolutions in the region but the one in Hong Kong is, I think, the most benign of all.

I am, as part of my responsibilities - some think it a little excessive or even self-indulgent - I am the Chancellor of every tertiary education institution in Hong Kong; I've got more caps and gowns than any other human being. And typically, when I am handing out degrees at university congregations between 60% and 70% of the young people taking their degree come from public housing estates. Typically, only about 6% of them come from backgrounds where either parent went to tertiary education themselves. It's just an example, when people talk about the social responsibility of a market economy - you know look at Hong Kong! We're not without our problems, but all the, I think, best arguments for market economics, you find here.

Now, if you're asking me where Britain has occasionally gone wrong - though the economy in Britain is going much better at the moment - if you ask me where things have gone wrong, I may start to sound like a former Chairman of the Conservative Party, so I'd better avoid that temptation. But if you were to ask a completely unbiased, objective witness like, say, Margaret Thatcher, who is a great admirer and supporter of Hong Kong, she would say because for too long during the post-war years Britain forgot about some of those simple truths of market economics: about balancing the books, about not spending money you haven't got, etc, etc. And I think, if I may add a footnote, that she is very largely right.

Question: I'm also one of those English people who have been here for some 12 years, although I don't think I'm perfect either. I address my comment today as the Chairman of the Travel & Tourism Education Programme. This is a programme that I will be addressing the group here about this afternoon that as a corporate community spirit we have brought to Hong Kong with several other market leaders. Today there are some two-and-a-half-thousand students going into a Travel & Tourism Education Programme which lasts for some two years and is being held in some 40 schools. At what point in time does the Government take over the responsibility for funding and running this type of programme and relieve it from private enterprise to move their money on to something else?

Governor: It's obviously not just a question for Hong Kong but a more general question. I've never myself believed that it was necessarily the case that once seed grants from corporate donors or from private individuals produced a successful thriving programme, that the taxpayer should necessarily take over the cost. And I feel that increasingly strongly because I happen to believe that the major problem which is going to be faced by virtually all the OECD economies in the next few years is how to reduce the share of national income taken by the state. I'm not customarily regarded as a very right-wing Tory but I feel that increasingly strongly. Partly, I have to say, as a result of my experiences in Asia. And here in Hong Kong I think that we've long taken the view that if the private sector takes on a responsibility, if you can fund things through the price mechanism or through private donation, there isn't any powerful argument why the state should do it instead. It's not to say that government in Hong Kong doesn't intervene and doesn't intervene with taxpayers' money. If you look at the scale of public housing in Hong Kong and the contribution that that has made to Hong Kong's health and stability, it's plainly the case that this isn't just a capitalist laboratory. So I think, without going into the details of the programme you mention, I don't myself think that it is necessarily the case that as soon as a corporately funded programme achieves lift-off, government should take it over and take over the responsibility for it.

I suppose that the extraordinary and extraordinarily successful role of the Jockey Club here in Hong Kong, is in a sense an example of the philosophy that I have enunciated. In a lot of other communities I guess the success of the Jockey Club and the resources which it deploys, it makes decisions about, in support of community endeavours, would have encouraged governments to bump-up tax on gambling and simply wipe out the enterprise which was doing what some centralists think government should do. Well, we haven't done that. Gambling makes a huge contribution to Hong Kong's revenues but thank God, we still have an autonomous Jockey Club providing a great deal of support to community organisations, to community endeavours right across the board, from ensuring that more people can play golf without having to shell out a fortune, to the most important and pioneering sorts of social work in the community.

I'm sorry it's not a very comfortable message, maybe, for corporate donors that once you've got something off the ground you can't stand back from it but it reflects my own observations on the scene.

Question: Governor Patten, what is your personal attitude towards the AIDS problem that we face in Asia, and is Hong Kong prepared to really do something to fight it? My name is Vichai (phonetic) from Thailand.

Governor: From 1986 to 1989 I was Britain's Aid Overseas Development Minister and quite centrally involved in the development of WHO programmes to cope with the pandemic of AIDS in Africa, programmes that were largely the inspiration of an extraordinary American doctor of great originality and drive called Jonathan Man. And in those days there were quite a lot of people who used to say, "Well, you know AIDS is a problem in the developed countries and we know that AIDS is a huge problem in Africa, but Asia is okay." Well, we know that AIDS is a problem for the whole world, that there is no part of it which is okay and I just hope that we can ensure that AIDS doesn't become as horrendous a problem as I've seen in African countries, like for example Uganda, like Zambia, like parts of Kenya. It's important that we support the World Health Organisation and other efforts. And if I may just add a parenthesis to that: one of the best ways we can help those international organisations is by standing back from the politicisation or nationalisation of appointments and promotions in them. I think one of the smaller but more damaging scandals in international politics is the extent to which some of those really important appointments in international organisations are the subject of political trade.

Here in Hong Kong we have developed, inside and outside government, both educational and caring programmes for those who are HIV positive or suffering from AIDS. I hope that our health education efforts will contain the, thankfully, small numbers of those who are suffering and that we will be able to develop increasingly humane attitudes to those who suffer from AIDS, not least in the area of hospice care. We've developed the Hospice movement in which personally I'm extremely interested, over the last three years but still need to do more in the area of hospice care for those who are victims of AIDS. I hope that before and after 1997 we can make our contribution to the development of programmes in the rest of Asia, not least through sharing experiences. But I do think it is important for all of us, if we are to develop effective programmes, to avoid being sanctimonious on the issue, even if we can't always entirely avoid an element of being judgmental creeping in to the argument or the debate. I know what a big problem you face in Thailand and I hope that the efforts which I know you are making meet with success and that you can show other Asian communities how to avoid the same problems. Thank you very much.

End/Thursday, September 21, 1995

Hope to work successfully with new LegCo: Governor

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It is the intention and the hope of the Government to work successfully with the new Legislative Council, the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, said today (Thursday).

Speaking at the Corporate Citizenship in Asia Pacific Conference organised by the Council on Foundations, the Governor stressed that while it would involve a certain amount of give and take on both side, he was hoping to forge a harmonious relationship with the newly elected Members.

"I hope that we will be able to work with them as creatively as possible in the interest of the whole community," he said.

Mr Patten pointed out that it was the first time Hong Kong had a Legislative Council chosen entirely by the electorate and said it was the "milestone in Hong Kong's political development".

It had been conducted smoothly and calmly, he observed: "The number of votes cast in our elections last Sunday (September 17) was hugely greater than in any previous election.

"I think that the votes last week were votes for Hong Kong's way of life. I think they were votes for ensuring that the guarantees of the future of that way of life are acted upon in the next few years," said Mr Patten.

End/Thursday, September 21, 1995

Electoral system sound: Mr Justice Woo

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The Chairman of the Boundary and Election Commission, Mr Justice Woo Kwok-hing, today (Thursday) stressed that the electoral system was sound.

The Chairman also dispersed doubts that the system might be discredited because of a miscalculation in the counting record of the Kowloon South-east constituency in Sunday's Legislative Council Elections. "It was only an isolated incident and I don't think there is any inherent weakness in the system," he said.

The staff of the Registration and Electoral Office have conducted a thorough check of the arithmetical accuracy of all the available counting records and confirmed that the calculations of the votes counted in respect of all the constituencies other than the Kowloon South-east are correct.

The Chairman said the Commission would review the arrangements to tighten up procedures and introduce more checks and balances to enhance the integrity, transparency and the credibility of the system.

End/Thursday, September 21, 1995

STI speaks at economic summit

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The Secretary for Trade and Industry, Mr T H Chau, today (Thursday) urged governments to get rid of their fixation on getting reciprocal trade benefits and concessions from their trading partners in formulating trade and investment policies.

Mr Chau made the remarks at the Europe/East Asia Economic Summit organised by the World Economic Forum which was being held in Singapore between September 20 to 22.

Commenting on the policies needed to shift from confrontation to constructive competition in international trade, and what European and Asian countries could do to help, Mr Chau said governments must look first for domestic causes for domestic problems, rather than blaming their trading partners.

"Those that run persistent budget deficits should not be surprised to find their global trade balances going into the red. Those with chronic high rates of unemployment should look first at rigidities in their labour markets before blaming others for their woes," Mr Chau said.

Mr Chau argued that in formulating their trade and investment policies, governments must recognise that in a globalised economy it was increasingly artificial and irrelevant to economic realities to label a product with a nationality. Rather, it was the opening up of one's market for trade and investment that could bring real economic benefits.

"Governments should recognise that barriers to trade and investment hurt those who impose them first. Open economies benefit from their openness more than anyone else," Mr Chau said.

Commenting on the actions required to consolidate the success of the Uruguay Round (UR), Mr Chau said World Trade Organisation (WTO) members must focus on building up the authority of the WTO.

"This depends above all on the commitment of members to its fundamental principles," he said.

Equally important are for governments to get on rapidly with the unfinished business of the UR, and with the faithful and preferably accelerated implementation of the UR commitments.

Mr Chau regretted that some UR commitments had only been observed in letter, rather than in spirit, and urged for more initiatives to accelerate, not postpone, the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers.

Mr Chau will return to Hong Kong on Saturday (September 23).

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Consumer Price Indices for August

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The year-on-year rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index (A) moderated further to 8.3% in August 1995, from 8.9% in June and 8.5% in July. This is shown in the latest Consumer Price Indices released today (Thursday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

The rates of increase in the Consumer Price Index (B) and the Hang Seng CPI also moderated to 9% and 9.8% respectively in August 1995. They were slower than the corresponding increases of 9.2% and 10.1% in July.

The Composite CPI, which is compiled based on the combined expenditure pattern of all households, thus also showed a slower year-on-year increase of 9% in August, against 9.2% in July.

Commenting on the CPI figures, a government spokesman said: "The further moderation in consumer price inflation in August was mainly due to slower rates of increase in private housing rentals, and in the prices of outerclothing and fresh fruit. "Affected by the adverse weather conditions, prices of vegetables surged in August. But as there was a similar upsurge in vegetable prices in August last year, the price change on a year-on-year comparison basis had not raised the CPI much."

Comparing August 1995 with August 1994, relatively faster price increases than the overall average were recorded for housing (12.5% in the CPI(A), 14.2% in the CPI(B) and 13.6% in the Composite CPI); miscellaneous services (11.3%, 10.8% and 10.4%); and miscellaneous goods (8.9%, 7.7% and 8.1%).

On the other hand, relatively slower price increases than the overall average were recorded for durable goods (4.2% in the CPI(A), 4.4% in the CPI(B) and 4.5% in the Composite CPI); clothing and footwear (4.5%, 5% and 7.6%); food (excluding meals bought away from home) (4.9%, 5.6% and 5.3%); alcoholic drinks and tobacco (7%, 6.3% and 6.6%); transport (7.1%, 7.4% and 7.1%); meals bought away from home (7.3%, 7.2% and 7.1%); and fuel and light (7.7%, 7.8% and 7.4%).

Comparing August 1995 with July 1995, the CPI(A) and CPI(B) increased by 1.4% and 1% respectively. The corresponding increase for the Composite CPI was 1%.

Taking the first eight months together, the increase in the CPI(A) averaged at 9.1% over a year earlier. The corresponding increases for the CPI(B) and Composite CPI were 9.7% and 9.5%.

For the three months ended August 1995, the CPI(A) and CPI(B) were, on average, higher by 8.6% and 9.3% respectively over a year earlier. The corresponding increase for the Composite CPI was 9.2%.

For the 12 months ended August 1995, the CPI(A) and CPI(B) were, on average, higher by 8.9% and 9.5% respectively than in the preceding 12-month period. The corresponding increase for the Composite CPI was 9.4%.

Seasonally adjusted series are also available for the CPIs. The deseasonalised CPI(A) and CPI(B) increased at an average rate of 0.8% and 0.7% per month during the three months ended August 1995. The corresponding increase for the Composite CPI was 0.7%.

Further details are shown in tables 1-2 and charts 1-4.

More details are given in the "Consumer Price Index Report" for August 1995, which is available at \$23 per copy from the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong; or from the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

For local and overseas mailings, contact should be made with the Information Services Department, 28th floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

For enquiries about the indices, please telephone the Consumer Price Index Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2805 6403. Details regarding the Hang Seng CPI are contained in the Hang Seng CPI Report issued by the Economic Research Department of Hang Seng Bank Ltd.

Table 1 Consumer Price Indices and Rates of Increase for August 1995

(Oct. 89 - Sep. 90 = 100)

Component	CPI(A)		CPI(B)		Hang Seng CPI		Composite CPI	
	Index for Aug 95	% change over Aug 94	Index for Aug 95	% change over Aug 94	Index for Aug 95	% change over Aug 94	Index for Aug 95	% change over Aug 94
Food	156.5	+6.2	156.9	+6.5	157.9	+6.3	156.9	+6.3
Meals bought away from home	163.9	+7.3	163.4	+7.2	163.5	+6.5	163.6	+7.1
Food, excluding meals bought away from home	149.0	+4.9	147.8	+5.6	148.5	+5.9	148.5	+5.3
Housing	187.2	+12.5	192.7	+14.2	199.8	+14.0	193.2	+13.6
Fuel and light	134.2	+7.7	133.7	+7.8	132.3	+6.3	133.6	+7.4
Alcoholic drinks and tobacco	199.4	+7.0	188.3	+6.3	182.7	+5.9	193.1	+6.6
Clothing and footwear	146.0	+4.5	149.0	+5.0	160.4	+12.9	152.1	+7.6
Durable goods	117.3	+4.2	116.5	+4.4	122.6	+5.0	118.5	+4.5
Miscellaneous goods	142.1	+8.9	137.7	+7.7	135.4	+7.5	138.7	+8.1
Transport	160.3	+7.1	159.4	+7.4	157.6	+6.6	159.2	+7.1
Miscellaneous services	174.7	+11.3	168.7	+10.8	156.0	+8.8	166.7	+10.4
All items	162.0	+8.3	163.1	+9.0	166.6	+9.8	163.6	+9.0

Monthly consumer price indices are compiled on the basis of (a) expenditure patterns of relevant households and (b) prices collected currently in the month. The expenditure patterns underlying the 1989/90-based consumer price indices are based on those patterns derived from the 1989/90 Household Expenditure Survey. The CPI(A) is based on the expenditure pattern of about 50% of households in Hong Kong, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$2,500-\$9,999 in 1989/90 (broadly equivalent to \$3,900-\$16,000 at 1995 prices). The CPI(B) is based on the expenditure pattern of the next 30% of households, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$10,000-\$17,499 in 1989/90 (broadly equivalent to \$16,000-\$28,500 at 1995 prices). The Hang Seng CPI is based on the expenditure pattern of the next 10% of households, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$17,500-\$37,499 in 1989/90 (broadly equivalent to \$28,500-\$61,000 at 1995 prices).

Whereas the CPI(A), CPI(B) and Hang Seng CPI are based on the expenditure patterns of groups of households with different magnitudes of household expenditure, the Composite CPI is compiled based on the expenditure pattern of all these households taken together. Thus, while the CPI(A), CPI(B) and Hang Seng CPI show the impact of consumer price changes on different groups of households, the Composite CPI shows the impact of consumer price changes on the household sector generally.

Table 2 Consumer Price Indices for August 1992 - August 1995
(Oct. 89 - Sep. 90 = 100)

<u>Year/month</u>	<u>CPI(A)</u>	<u>CPI(B)</u>	<u>Hang Seng CPI</u>	<u>Composite CPI</u>
1992 August	125.6	125.9	125.8	125.8
	128.3	127.9	127.5	128.0
September				
October	128.4	128.4	128.6	128.5
November	128.5	129.0	129.9	129.0
December	129.3	129.8	130.0	129.7
1993 January	131.8	131.6	131.5	131.7
	132.4	132.2	132.0	132.2
February	132.0	132.2	133.1	132.4
March				
April	133.5	133.9	134.5	133.9
May	134.5	134.8	136.3	135.1
June	136.0	135.9	137.1	136.3
July	135.8	136.1	136.9	136.2
August	136.3	136.6	137.4	136.7
September	138.4	138.3	139.2	138.6
October	140.0	139.6	140.7	140.0
November	139.4	139.9	142.2	140.3
December	140.4	140.9	143.3	141.3
1994 January	140.0	140.7	143.4	141.1
	142.7	142.9	144.9	143.3
February	142.5	143.0	145.3	143.4
March				
April	143.8	144.8	147.9	145.2
May	145.0	146.1	150.0	146.7
June	146.2	146.9	151.0	147.7
July	147.3	147.9	150.5	148.3
August	149.6	149.6	151.7	150.1
September	150.3	150.8	153.4	151.3
October	151.1	152.2	155.3	152.6
November	151.4	153.1	157.3	153.5
December	153.0	154.3	158.1	154.8
1995 January	154.1	155.3	158.2	155.6
	155.4	156.6	159.0	156.7
February	156.1	157.4	159.7	157.5
March				
April	157.6	159.2	162.3	159.4
May	158.1	159.9	164.2	160.4
June	159.2	161.1	165.6	161.6
July	159.8	161.5	165.7	161.9
August	162.0	163.1	166.6	163.6

Chart 1 Year-on-year Rates of Increase
in CPI(A)

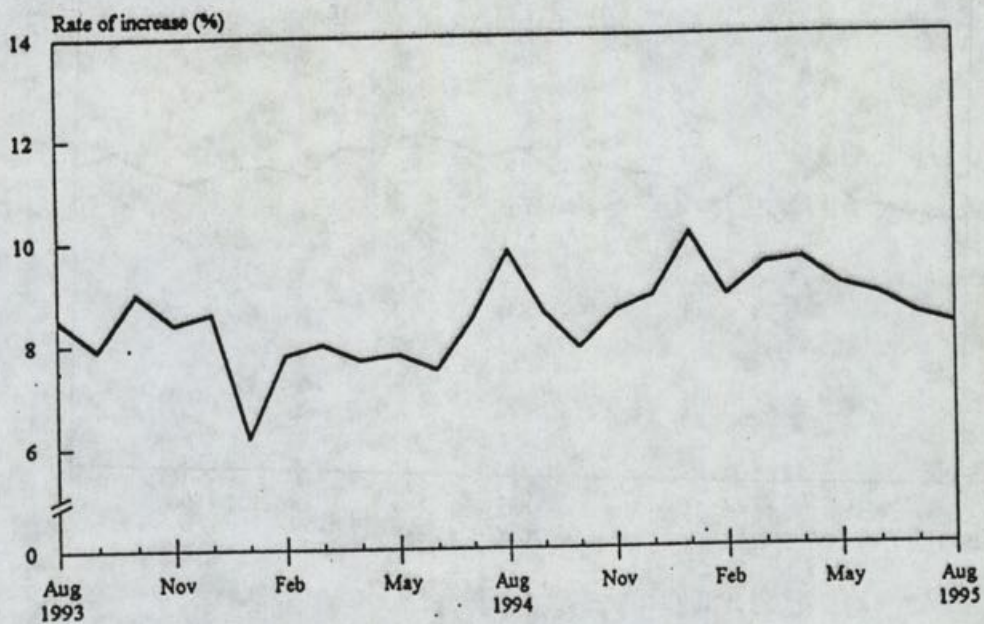


Chart 2 Year-on-year Rates of Increase
in CPI(B)

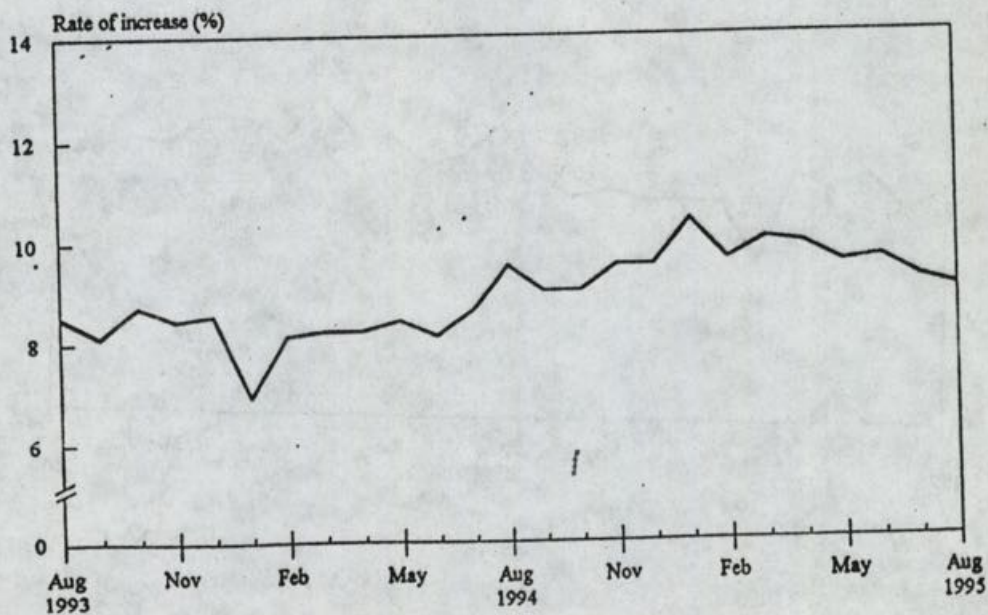


Chart 3 Year-on-year Rates of Increase
in Hang Seng CPI

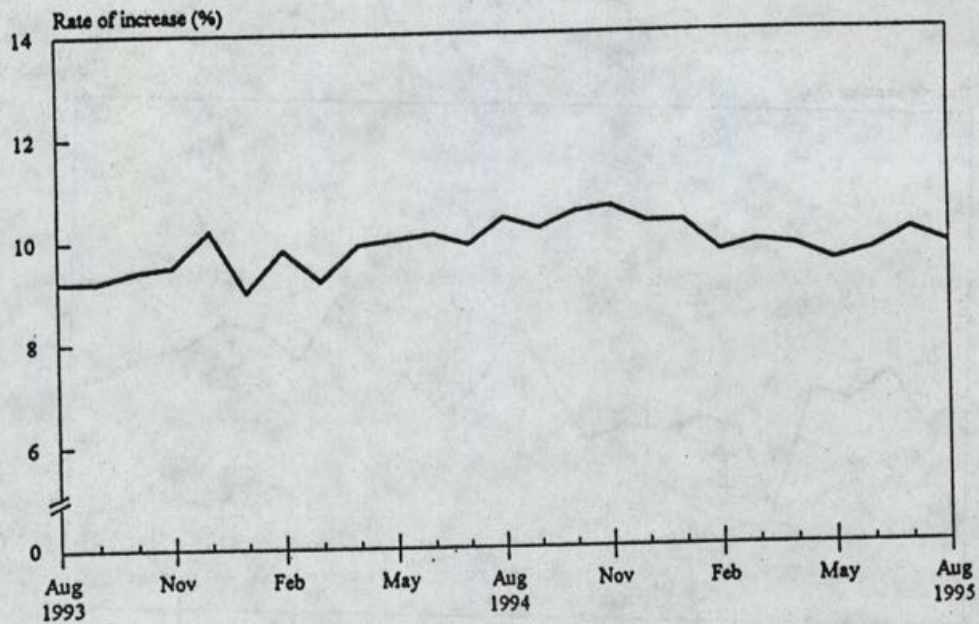
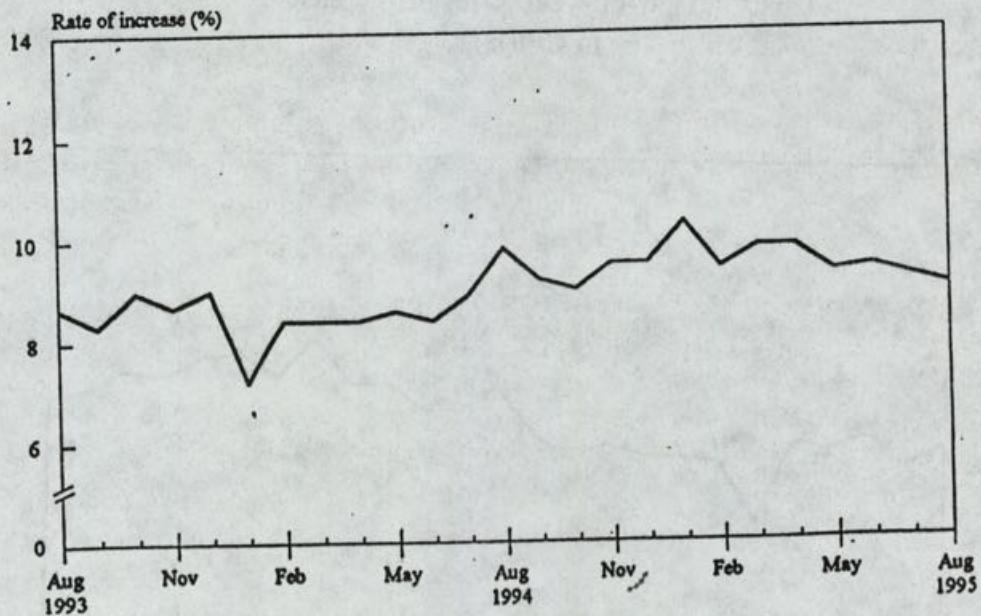


Chart 4 Year-on-year Rates of Increase
in Composite CPI



More input from private sector urged for govt's work on APEC

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A senior Trade Department official today (Thursday) called on the private business sector to provide more input to help ensure that the Government's work in the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum would better meet the needs and aspiration of the community.

"Our work will be totally futile and irrelevant if it brings no benefits to the private sector," said Assistant Director-General of Trade, Mrs Rebecca Lai, while addressing a luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club of Kowloon.

"For example, professionals and manufacturers would no doubt have come across problems arising from different quality and product standards and changing rules of origin administered by various authorities," she said.

"What APEC has started as a first step is to work towards mutual recognition and later harmonisation of these standards and rules will hopefully remove the uncertainty and hustle."

Mrs Lai said toys and food products were among the first pilot sectors being examined by APEC experts and also a tariff database on CD ROM on all 18 APEC member economies had already been produced.

"An examination of competitive policy and anti-dumping practice we hope will eventually lead to a more competitive environment and the removal of distorting and harassing tools such as anti-dumping," she added.

To ensure that all this work was relevant to the business sector, Mrs Lai strongly urged businessmen and professionals to make their views known to the Government through all available channels such as chambers of commerce and professional associations.

"We also consult the Trade Advisory Board regularly on our work in APEC and encourage individual participation at various APEC fora on trade promotion, transportation, telecommunications, infrastructure development, etc," she said.

Mrs Lai said during 1995, senior officials of APEC had held a series of meetings working diligently on an action agenda on how free trade goal could be achieved.

She said the Action Agenda would contain three pillars of APEC work - trade and investment liberalisation, facilitation, and co-operation.

"It will set out the general principles under which liberalisation and facilitation should take place. Having done this, the Action Agenda will also spell out specific areas in which liberalisation and facilitation need to be pursued," she said.

"Most prominent of course is the reduction and eventual elimination of all tariffs. Equally important is the removal of non-tariff barriers, deregulations, liberalisation of the service sectors, harmonisation of standards, simplification of customs procedures, production of a competitive environment open to all players and so on."

Under each of these areas where APEC members were able to arrive at consensus on collective actions, Mrs Lai said these actions would be clearly spelt out in terms of short, medium and long-term targets.

"Where actions require individual member economies to remove tariff and non-tariff barriers or to deregulate certain parts of their economies, guidelines will be included in the Action Agenda for member economies to draw up their respective individual action plans for presentation to Ministers at the Manila Ministerial Meeting in late 1996."

Mrs Lai dispelled the myth that APEC was "a party of extravagant celebration", and said she saw the acronym APEC as standing for "a place to explore commonality", "a place to establish consensus" and "a place to enhance co-operation".

However, she cautioned that APEC, or World Trade Organisation, or indeed any multilateral talks, were no panacea to trade barriers and trade wars.

"Protectionism is still around. Pressure is high on politicians of other member economies from their different constituencies to adopt various trade harassments and distortion measures. Each member economy has its own domestic problems and sensitive sectors to deal with," she said.

"What Hong Kong should continue to do is to endeavour to keep government away from our businessmen. Our job as government should rather be to fight for a competitive environment for Hong Kong, and in the Asian Pacific Region and beyond."

End/Thursday, September 21, 1995

Enrolment of TCM practitioners begins

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The Preparatory Committee on Chinese Medicine (PCCM) announces the launching of an enrolment exercise for Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) practitioners from tomorrow (Friday). The exercise will last for four months until January 21, 1996.

Speaking at a press conference today (Thursday), the Chairman of the TCM Practitioner Sub-Committee of PCCM, Mr Cheung Tai-chiu, said: "The enrolment exercise aims at obtaining information on local TCM practitioners, such as number, modes of training, qualifications and practice profile.

"The exercise is essentially a statistical survey on TCM practitioners and should not be confused with statutory registration."

Mr Cheung pointed out that the general survey was targeted at both full-time and part-time TCM practitioners in Hong Kong, including herbalists, bone-setters and acupuncturists.

To be eligible for enrolment, one must be a Hong Kong resident and be either a full/part time local TCM practitioner practising the profession or engaging in TCM education prior to January 1, 1995 or a holder of a graduation diploma issued by a TCM training institution. Documentary support for such claims is required.

Also speaking at the press conference, the acting Deputy Director of Health, Dr Lam Ping-yan, said the information collected would be used by the PCCM as the basis for formulating future registration criteria. He, therefore, encouraged all eligible TCM practitioners to actively participate in the exercise.

Enrolment forms will be available from tomorrow at all District Offices and the PCCM Secretariat on 17th floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai. For enquiries, please call the Secretariat on tel 2961 8660.

Completed forms should be sent by hand or by mail to the PCCM Secretariat on or before January 21, 1996.

Mr Cheung added that the Sub-Committee would notify each applicant in writing as to whether his/her application was accepted. In case of objection, the PCCM's decision will be final.

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Territory Development Director to brief PWC sub-group

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In response to press enquiries, a Government spokesman confirmed today (Thursday) that at the invitation of the Preliminary Working Committee Economic Sub-group, the Director of Territory Development, Mr Lee Shing-see, will lead a team of officials to provide a briefing to the sub-group in Zhuhai tomorrow (Friday).

The briefing will be on major infrastructure projects in Hong Kong with tentative start dates between 1997 and 1999.

Other officials in the team are Mr Tam Po-yiu of Planning Department, Mr Roger Parry of Port Development Board, Mr Wong Wah-lun and Mr Mak Chai-kwong of Highways Department, Mr Michael Arnold of Finance Branch and an interpreter.

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Opportunities for a challenging career in the Government

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University graduates who intend to pursue a challenging career in the public service should watch out for the recruitment advertisement for the five civil service grades to be published in newspapers on September 23 and 30.

The five civil service grades inviting are: Administrative Officer, Executive Officer II, Assistant Labour Officer II, Assistant Trade Officer II and Management Services Officer II.

Administrative Officers are responsible for the formulation and implementation of government policies, co-ordination and planning of public programmes, and the management and control of resources. They are generalist managers occupying key posts of different natures in Secretariat Branches and government departments throughout their career.

Executive Officers II are deployed in various secretariat branches and government departments to provide administrative functions in support of departmental management's objectives and activities, resource planning and control as well as human resource management and community relations.

Assistant Labour Officers II in Labour Department provide employment services to job seekers and employers; provide careers advisory service to students; process claims for employees' compensation; assist in promotion of good labour management relations; and enforce labour legislation.

Assistant Trade Officers II work either in Department of Trade or Industry and assist in research and analysis of trade and industry matters, licensing and control management, design and development of computer systems, and industrial promotion. The job may require them to attend overseas conferences, to assist in overseas negotiations, or to be posted to work in Hong Kong Government's overseas offices.

Management Services Officers II provide management services such as management consultancies, organisation reviews, value for money studies, and office automation studies. They also conduct assignments on office accommodation planning and use of modern office equipment.

"We are looking for young talent who are committed to serve the people of Hong Kong. Candidates selected to fill the posts must be sensitive to the needs of the community and be able to make sensible judgements," a spokesman for the Civil Service said today (Thursday).

"They should also be dynamic in their character and be innovative in solving problems. A civil service career is a demanding yet rewarding one. It provides job satisfaction to people who are dedicated to serve the community, particularly at this important time in Hong Kong's history," the spokesman said.

Vacancies for these five grades will be advertised in two English and two Chinese dailies and a Chinese evening daily. The closing date for applications will be on October 14.

A longer period of three weeks is allowed for lodging the applications in order to give more time for final-year undergraduates to apply for the vacancies. As in last year, applicants applying for more than one grade need to fill in only one application form.

Candidates who possess a degree from a university in Hong Kong, or equivalent qualifications, will be eligible to apply. Undergraduates who are taking their final degree examinations in summer 1996 may also apply. Diploma holders and matriculants with relevant experience may be considered exceptionally for the Management Services Officer II.

"A Common Recruitment Examination will be held for the five grades on December 2. In line with our aim for a biliterate (Chinese and English) civil service, a test on the use of Chinese language has been added to this year's examination," the spokesman said.

The examination comprises three papers. English Paper (two hours) and Chinese Paper (two hours) are to test candidates on the use of English and Chinese languages and to assess their analytical power and problem-solving ability. Aptitude Test Paper (1 hour 15 minutes) is to assess candidates' logical thinking and their ability in the interpretation of statistics. The total examination time for the three papers is 5 hours and 15 minutes.

End/Thursday, September 21, 1995

Value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in July

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The value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand for local production in July 1995 increased by 6% over a year earlier, according to the provisional results of a monthly survey released today (Thursday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Comparing July 1995 with July 1994, significant increases in the value of outstanding orders were recorded in the electrical products industry (+20%) and the electronic products industry (+19%). A moderate increase in the value of orders was also recorded in the wearing apparel industry (+5%).

On the other hand, decreases in the value of orders were recorded in the plastic products industry (-13%), the textiles industry (-10%), the printing and publishing industry (-7%) and the fabricated metal industry (-4%).

Compared with June 1995, and bearing in mind that this comparison may be affected by seasonal factors, the value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in July 1995 showed little change.

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 July 1995, at \$6 a copy, is now on 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

	June 1995 over June 1994 ----- (Revised)	July 1995 over July 1994 ----- (Provisional)
All industries covered in the survey	+8	+6
* Wearing apparel	+4	+5
* Textiles	-6	-10
* Electronic products	+22	+19
* Electrical products	+22	+20
* Fabricated metal products	-21	-4
* Plastic products	-13	-13
* Printing and publishing	+18	-7

End/Thursday, September 21, 1995

Community centre to improve hospital medical care

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The Tuen Mun Hospital Community Services Centre was officially opened today (Thursday) by the Director of Home Affairs, Mrs Shelley Lau, who said it marks the beginning of a new era for the hospital in attending to the needs of residents in the region through its diversification of services.

Mrs Lau pointed out that the centre will not only cater to the needs of the patients, but also in a wide range of services to their families and anyone else from among the 600,000 people in Northwest New Territories. These services include psychological assessment, health education, counselling, patient support group, patient referral and dealing with enquiries.

The Centre will also provide an avenue for volunteers to donate their time and use their expertise to assist patients in their rehabilitation process and introduce a "patient care ambassador" scheme, Mrs Lau said.

The setting-up of the Centre in July last year, made possible by a donation from the Hong Kong Jockey Club, will encourage a better rapport between the medical practitioners and the community at large, she added.

Tuen Mun Hospital was established in March 1990 and has more than 20 specialist clinical units with over 1,600 beds.

End/Thursday, September 21, 1995

Tide Tables for Hong Kong published

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The "Tide Tables for Hong Kong 1996" has been published and now on sale at the Government Publications Centre, Marine Department Headquarters and Royal Observatory Headquarters.

These tables list the predicted heights and times of daily high and low waters at eight locations - Chi Ma Wan, Ko Lau Wan, Lok On Pai, Quarry Bay, Tai O, Tai Po Kau, Tsim Bei Tsui and Waglan Island. Phases of the moon are also given. At \$11 a copy, this bilingual publication provides an informative reference on tides in Hong Kong.

Engineers, shipping and wharfing companies, container terminal operators, yachtsmen, fishing and water sports enthusiasts should find these tables very useful.

End/Thursday, September 21, 1995

Souvenir stamp sheetlet on victory celebration issued

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The acting Postmaster General, Miss Nancy Law, today (Thursday) announces that the Hong Kong Classics Series No 6 definitive stamp sheetlet will be issued on October 9.

1995 is the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The sheetlet depicts a sepia photograph of the victory celebration by the Cenotaph on October 9, 1945, on a day with bright sunshine and happy crowds. "The stamp sheetlet will be issued exactly 50 years after the memorable victory celebration when tribute was paid to Hong Kong's liberators - both the living and the dead," said Miss Law.

"The sheetlet, cancelled with the postmark of October 9, 1995, makes a meaningful collection."

The two stamps reproduced on the sheetlet were issued on August 29, 1946, to mark the liberation of Hong Kong. They were designed by Mr W E Jones when he was prisoner of war in Stanley Camp.

The sheetlet, which will be available at all post offices at \$10 each, is designed by Mr Gideon Lai Wai-kwan and printed by Joh Enschede, the Netherlands.

A maximum restriction of 20 sheetlets per customer queuing will be imposed on October 9. No advance order service will be provided.

Official souvenir cover at \$1 each will be placed on sale at all post offices as from October 2 and hand-back service will be provided at all post offices on October 9 to official and privately-made covers bearing an indication of the event.

End/Thursday, September 21, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
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Opening balance in the account	1,777	0930	-340
Closing balance in the account	1,817	1000	-340
Change attributable to :		1100	-340
Money market activity	-340	1200	-340
LAF today	+380	1500	-340
		1600	-340

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.6 *-0.8* 21.9.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.95	2 years	2708	6.06	100.23	6.01
1 month	5.88	3 years	3807	6.16	99.88	6.30
3 months	5.85	5 years	5006	6.95	100.35	6.98
6 months	5.84	5 years	M501	7.90	102.38	7.42
12 months	5.84					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$12,930 million

Closed September 21, 1995

End/Thursday, September 21, 1995