



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Rights of crime victims given recognition

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The Attorney General, Mr Jeremy Mathews, today (Tuesday) launched a victim's charter which sets out the rights of crime victims and their immediate family members as well as the standards of service they could expect from law enforcement agencies and government departments with which they come into contact.

Mr Mathews said for some time, he has been concerned that working of the criminal justice system in Hong Kong did not adequately consider the interests of victims of crime.

To improve their lot, he had set up an inter-departmental working group in February to explore the issue and to see what measures could be taken. As a result, a report was produced in August.

It was clear that a great deal of work was already being done to take account of the interests of victims, but there had been no overall co-ordination of these efforts, Mr Mathews said.

One of the principal recommendations of the working group is that a victim's charter should be published, together with information on other helpful leaflets, and details of complaint channels for those who feel services provided to them have fallen short of the standards they expected.

Copies of the Charter are now available at Police stations, public hospitals, and at government departments which crime victims are most likely to turn to for help.

Mr Mathews said it was in the interests of the criminal justice system that adequate consideration be given to victims of crime.

"Conscientious citizens who report a crime to the Police may not do so again if their experience is that they are inadequately informed of the progress of the cases; or if they have to attend court on numerous occasions because of repeated adjournments, for reasons which are not explained to them," he said.

"They may not report a crime again, if they are consigned to a waiting area at court alongside associates of the defendant they have come to court to give evidence against; or if the stress of a court appearance is made worse because of their lack of knowledge of the basis of trial procedure and its personnel."

The Victim's Charter seeks to answer these difficulties by setting out a number of broad principles to guide members of law enforcement agencies, government departments and other organisations concerned with victims of crime. These principles are:

- * The victim's right:
 - to be treated with courtesy and respect
 - to have a proper response to complaints of crime
 - to information as regards the crime reporting
 - to information as regards the crime investigation and prosecution,
 - to proper facilities at court
 - to be heard
 - to seek protection
 - to privacy and confidentiality
 - to prompt return of property
 - to support and aftercare, and
 - to seek compensation

- * In return, members of the community are expected to help maintain law and order, through:
 - abiding by the law
 - taking proper precautions to prevent crime
 - reporting crime, corruption and any suspicious circumstances
 - co-operating with the law enforcement agencies on request
 - giving any assistance they reasonably can at an incident when asked to do so by the law enforcement agencies, and

- coming forward as witnesses

The Attorney General pointed out that publication of the Victim's Charter was not intended to be the final word in dealing with victims of crime.

"This is the first step, even if a major one, in ensuring appropriate standards of treatment for victims of crime.

"The intention of all the agencies and organisations represented on the working group is that there should be a process of continuous revision, evaluation and improvement of services to victims of crime in Hong Kong," he said.

End

Western Harbour Crossing taxi toll endorsed

* * * * *

The Transport Advisory Committee at a meeting today (Tuesday) recommended that taxi passengers should pay a \$40 taxi toll if they use the Western Harbour Crossing (WHC).

Members agreed that the recommended level which comprised a single tunnel toll (\$30) for WHC plus the cheapest alternative return toll (\$10) was considered most appropriate after taken into consideration various factors.

At present taxi passengers were charged a double toll for using the Cross Harbour Tunnel (CHT) or Eastern Harbour Crossing (EHC).

A taxi toll of \$40 for WHC is considered desirable, given that most of the taxis using CHT and EHC are on hire, that cheaper alternative routes for the return journey are available, and that cross harbour taxi stands will be provided near WHC entrances.

At today's meeting, the committee also discussed the fare increase application by the Hong Kong Tramways Limited (HKTL) but no decision has been taken.

Members had asked HKTL to submit more information concerning the fare increase application so that a further meeting could be held in two weeks time.

End

Leasing agency contracts to be signed

The Chief Property Manager of the Government Property Agency, Mr Shum Kwok-sheer, will sign the leasing agency contracts tomorrow (Wednesday) with five agency firms to provide agency service for the leasing of government quarters surplus to requirements.

The firms are: Centaline Property Agency Limited, Hesterton Petty Limited, First Pacific Davies (Hong Kong) Limited, Jones Lang Wootton Limited and Ricacorp Property Limited.

The contracts will be effective from October 30 for a term of two years.

A total of some 150 flats will be available for leasing in the first phase of the exercise at various locations including Borrett Road, 122 Pok Fu Lam Road, Baquio Villa, Mansfield Road, Mt Butler Road. The asking rents range from \$35,000 to \$58,000 per month.

End

External trade figures for September

In September 1996, domestic exports decreased over a year earlier, while re-exports rose slightly and imports showed little change, these are shown in the external trade figures for September released today (Tuesday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

The value of total exports (comprising re-exports and domestic exports) decreased by 0.4% over a year earlier to \$126.1 billion in September 1996. The value of re-exports increased by 2.2% to \$107.8 billion, while the value of domestic exports decreased by 14% to \$18.3 billion.

Meanwhile, the value of imports decreased marginally by 0.2% over a year earlier to \$130.7 billion in September 1996.

As the value of total exports in September 1996 was smaller than that of total imports, a visible trade deficit of \$4.6 billion, equivalent to 3.5% of the value of imports, was recorded. This was the lowest trade deficit recorded in a single month since October 1995.

For the first nine months of 1996 as a whole, the value of total exports grew by 4% over the same period last year. The value of re-exports rose by 6.7%, while that of domestic exports decreased by 8.9%. The value of imports showed an increase of 2.5%

In the first nine months of 1996, a visible trade deficit of \$102.1 billion, equivalent to 9% of the value of imports, was recorded. This was smaller than the deficit of \$114 billion, equivalent to 10% of the value of imports, recorded in the same period in 1995.

Commenting on the latest trade figures, a government spokesman said export performance remained exceptionally volatile.

After some pick-up in July and August, exports weakened again in September 1996. However, it is noted that many economies in the region generally suffered a setback in export growth, affected to various extent by the global downturn in the electronic product cycle.

NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) could have also diverted some of US import demand which was formerly sourced from Asia to Mexico and Canada.

Reflecting this, US imports from these two economies continued to show notable increases in the first seven months of 1996, notwithstanding a generally slower growth in US import demand over the same period.

On the other hand, largely reflecting continued inventory adjustment, retained imports in Hong Kong declined further by 5.1% over a year earlier, albeit less rapid than in the previous two months. The visible trade deficit continued to narrow.

The table annexed presents the external trade figures in September 1996.

A more detailed analysis of Hong Kong's external trade for September 1996, by commodity and country, will be released in mid-November.



Census and Statistics Department
Hong Kong
香港政府統計處

External Trade Figures for September 1996

一九九六年九月份對外貿易數字

(HK\$ Million)
百萬港元

MERCHANDISE TRADE VALUES for September 1996

一九九六年九月份商品貿易價值

		Domestic Exports	Re-exports	Total Exports	Imports	Trade balance	港產品出口		轉口		整體出口		進口		貿易差額	
							18,263		107,829		126,091		130,691		-4,600	
Current month compared with same month last year		本月與去年同期相比	September 1996 一九九六年九月	September 1995 一九九五年九月	Change 變動		Value 價值	% 百分率								
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	港產品出口 (佔整體出口百分比)	18,263 (14.5%)	21,123 (16.7%)	-2,860	-13.5											
Re-exports	轉口	107,829	105,502	+2,327	+2.2											
Total Exports	整體出口	126,091	126,625	-534	-0.4											
Imports	進口	130,691	130,951	-260	-0.2											
Trade balance	貿易差額	-4,600	-4,326	-274												
Current month compared with last month		本月與上月相比	September 1996 一九九六年九月	August 1996 一九九六年八月	Change 變動		Value 價值	% 百分率								
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	港產品出口 (佔整體出口百分比)	18,263 (14.5%)	18,182 (14.6%)	+80	+0.4											
Re-exports	轉口	107,829	106,682	+1,146	+1.1											
Total Exports	整體出口	126,091	124,865	+1,227	+1.0											
Imports	進口	130,691	132,074	-1,383	-1.0											
Trade balance	貿易差額	-4,600	-7,210	+2,610												
Latest 3 months compared with same period 12 months earlier		最近三個月與早十二個月 同期相比	Jul 96 to Sep 96 九六年七月至九月	Jul 95 to Sep 95 九五年七月至九月	Change 變動		Value 價值	% 百分率								
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	港產品出口 (佔整體出口百分比)	57,243 (14.9%)	63,802 (17.2%)	-6,559	-10.3											
Re-exports	轉口	325,659	306,224	+19,435	+6.3											
Total Exports	整體出口	382,902	370,027	+12,875	+3.5											
Imports	進口	401,280	395,914	+5,366	+1.4											
Trade balance	貿易差額	-18,378	-25,887	+7,510												
Calendar year-to-date compared with same period last year		本年首九個月與去年同期 相比	Jan-Sep 1996 九六年一月至九月	Jan-Sep 1995 九五年一月至九月	Change 變動		Value 價值	% 百分率								
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	港產品出口 (佔整體出口百分比)	156,504 (15.2%)	171,874 (17.3%)	-15,371	-8.9											
Re-exports	轉口	876,458	821,377	+55,081	+6.7											
Total Exports	整體出口	1,032,962	993,251	+39,710	+4.0											
Imports	進口	1,135,099	1,107,270	+27,829	+2.5											
Trade balance	貿易差額	-102,138	-114,019	+11,882												
Last 12 months compared with same period 12 months earlier		最近十二個月與再早 十二個月相比	Oct 95 to Sep 96 九五年十月 至九六年九月	Oct 94 to Sep 95 九四年十月 至九五年九月	Change 變動		Value 價值	% 百分率								
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	港產品出口 (佔整體出口百分比)	216,287 (15.6%)	233,793 (17.8%)	-17,506	-7.5											
Re-exports	轉口	1,167,551	1,081,515	+86,036	+8.0											
Total Exports	整體出口	1,383,838	1,315,308	+68,530	+5.2											
Imports	進口	1,518,950	1,452,097	+66,852	+4.6											
Trade balance	貿易差額	-135,112	-136,790	+1,678												

Note Value of domestic exports and value of re-exports may not add up to the value of total exports due to rounding.

This sheet can be obtained free of charge from:

Trade Statistics Dissemination Section

Census and Statistics Department

Address: 19/F, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, H.K.

Tel: 2582 4915

Fax: 2802 1101

註：由於進位關係，港產品出口價值加上轉口價值，可能會與整體出口價值略有出入。

本單張可以於下列地點免費索取：

香港政府統計處

貿易統計資料發布組

地址：香港灣仔港灣道十二號灣仔政府大樓十九樓

電話：2582 4915

傳真：2802 1101

10/96

S for W urged safety culture for construction industry

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The Secretary for Works, Mr Kwong Hon-sang, today (Tuesday) urged all parties concerned to strive to achieve a safety culture throughout the construction industry.

He made the remarks when speaking at the Construction Industry Safety and Health Conference '96 jointly organised by the Works Branch, the Occupational Safety and Health Council and the Hong Kong Construction Association.

He said the Government, as the largest employer in the construction industry, was very concerned about workers' safety and health.

"I am sure we all agree that safety and health is an obligation and a duty for all of us in the industry.

"We have been trying hard to bring about improvements, and we have achieved a great deal on Government projects.

"But, there is no room for complacency and we need to do more," said Mr Kwong, adding that he was pleased to note the conference provided a useful forum for people involved in public works to review the works and contributions of various parties in improving construction site safety and to share their experience.

At the Conference, the participants also discussed ways to improve results of safety efforts and the role of the parties involved in achieving these improvements.

End

Workshop on human resources in Geotechnical Engineering

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The Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) and the Geotechnical Division of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) are organising a workshop on human resources in geotechnical engineering in Hong Kong.

The workshop, to be held on Thursday (October 31) at HKIE's conference room, ninth floor, Island Centre, Great George Street, Causeway Bay, is aimed at identifying existing and future problems with the supply of the human resources in the geotechnical field.

GEO has already experienced a shortage of professional staff despite repeated efforts to recruit professionally qualified local staff from the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada.

Currently, it has about 16 vacancies for Geotechnical Engineers and 25 vacancies for Geotechnical Technical Officers.

Other issues which are expected to be raised at the workshop include the education and training of geotechnical engineers, technicians and skilled workers, and the availability of overseas and China-trained professionals.

Representatives from GEO, consultants, contractors, public corporations, academic field and government departments will present their views in the workshop.

End

Flushing water cut in Sham Shui Po

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The flushing water supply to some premises in Sham Shui Po will be temporarily suspended from 9 am to 5 pm on Friday (November 1) for cleansing of the Beacon Hill High Level Salt Water Service Reservoir.

The suspension will affect all premises along the section of Lung Cheung Road between Nam Cheong Street and Lion Rock Tunnel Road, Rhondda Road and Beacon Heights.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

Tender date	29 Oct 1996	29 Oct 1996
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q644	Y695
Issue date	30 Oct 1996	30 Oct 1996
Maturity date	29 Jan 1997	29 Oct 1997
Coupon	-	-
Amount applied	HK\$6,050 MN	HK\$2,562 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$1,500 MN	HK\$500 MN
Average yield accepted	4.94 PCT	5.33 PCT
Highest yield accepted	4.95 PCT	5.33 PCT
Pro rata ratio	About 8 PCT	About 54 PCT
Average tender yield	4.96 PCT	5.35 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning 4 Nov 1996

Tender date	5 Nov 1996	5 Nov 1996
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q645	H677
Issue date	6 Nov 1996	6 Nov 1996
Maturity date	5 Feb 1997	7 May 1997
Tenor	91 days	182 days
Amount on offer	HK\$1,500+300MN	HK\$800+160MN

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,649	0930	+51
Closing balance in the account	2,174	1000	+248
Change attributable to:		1100	+248
Money market activity	+248	1200	+248
LAF today	- 723	1500	+248
		1600	+248

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 125.1 *+0.1* 29.10.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/MTRC				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.87	2 years	2808	6.00	100.37	5.86
1 month	4.88	3 years	3910	6.28	100.13	6.33
3 months	4.95	5 years	5109	7.32	102.08	6.92
6 months	5.04	7 years	7308	7.24	100.42	7.29
12 months	5.31	10 years	1610	7.37	99.38	7.60
		5 years	M503	7.35	100.86	7.26

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$11,412 million

Closed October 29, 1996

End