



---

## 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

---

### 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.



---

## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

---

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

Sunday, April 6, 1997

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Efforts in strengthening clearing and settlement systems .....	1
Government purchases total HK\$4,781 million in 1996 .....	2
Native-speaking English teachers sought .....	3
Quicker and greener access to Daily Information Bulletin .....	5

### Efforts in strengthening clearing and settlement systems

\* \* \* \* \*

A robust financial infrastructure is an indispensable element in capital market development, the Secretary for the Treasury, Mr K C Kwong, said today (Sunday).

A key component of that infrastructure is a sound and efficient clearing and settlement system which helps to minimise market risks, he said.

Mr Kwong was introducing the collaborative initiative on clearing and settlement infrastructure at the fifth plenary session on the final day of the Finance Ministers Meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) in Cebu, the Philippines.

"We have seen, in recent years, increasing emphasis being put on the development of better clearing and settlement systems as a means to promote capital market development. We have witnessed significant and fast changes in the region," Mr Kwong said.

He noted that a few member economies had already established advanced domestic systems while some others were planning to upgrade theirs, making it a very fertile ground for mutual technical assistance and a particularly worthwhile collaborative initiative to reinforce the spirit of co-operation within the APEC region.

Mr Kwong told other APEC delegates attending the meeting that Hong Kong would contribute to such efforts.

"In 1990, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority established a Central Moneymarkets Unit (CMU) which provides a computerised book-entry form of central and custodian service for domestic debts," he said.

"In December 1996, the CMU service achieved real time Delivery versus Payment (DvP) capability, thereby eliminating virtually the settlement risk.

"DvP was made possible with the successful launch of the Real Time Gross Settlement System in Hong Kong in which interbank payment is processed continually and finality of settlement is instantaneous and irrevocable."

He added that Real Time Gross Settlement System also provided the building block for real time payment versus payment for foreign-exchange transactions.

The Secretary for the Treasury said Hong Kong was prepared to share its experience in the establishment of domestic clearing and settlement systems with other member economies and to act as contact point if necessary to make the relevant referrals or co-ordination for APEC member economies wishing to seek technical assistance from the Asia Development Bank or from other economies.

Stressing that the immediate goal of the collaborative initiative should be on strengthening domestic clearing and settlement systems, Mr Kwong said in the medium to longer term, there might be a need to assess the feasibility of development of a regional clearing and settlement facility.

"The Executives' Meeting of East Asia and Pacific Central Banks and Monetary Authorities (EMEAP) has already started to study this issue. When the study is completed and subject to the agreement of EMEAP, we would be pleased to inform APEC of the findings," he said.

Mr Kwong said it was very encouraging that some member economies had already reacted positively to this collaborative initiative and the proposed approach and some had also indicated their willingness to share their experience in domestic clearing and settlement systems with other APEC member economies.

"I am confident that such collaboration would bear fruitful results for the APEC region as a whole," he added.

End

Government purchases total HK\$4,781 million in 1996

\* \* \* \* \*

Contracts valued at HK\$4,781 million were arranged by the Government Supplies Department (GSD) in 1996, a five per cent increase over the previous year.

These contracts were for the supply of goods and services to over 80 government departments and to several non-government organisations, including the Hospital Authority.

The main items purchased included computer hardware and software, pharmaceutical preparations, medical and hospital equipment, fuel oils and scientific and laboratory equipment.

Purchases in 1996 were obtained from over 35 countries. The United States was the principal manufacturing source of the goods purchased, supplying goods valued at HK\$1,888 million, representing 40 per cent of total purchases. The major items of US origin were computer products, medical and hospital equipment, telecommunications systems and pharmaceutical preparations. The US has been the leading source of manufactured goods supplied to the Hong Kong Government since 1986.

Other important sources of purchases were the United Kingdom, China, Germany and Hong Kong. Products of local manufacture included furniture items, pharmaceutical preparations, hospital consumables, household disposals and sundries.

"The Hong Kong Government adopts an open and fair procurement policy by purchasing the goods and services that represent best value for money, irrespective of country of origin," the Director of Government Supplies, Mr Nigel Shipman, said.

Record savings of HK\$146 million were achieved through price negotiations. The Hong Kong Government buys principally through open competitive tendering and prices are only negotiated in special circumstances.

"Through the sale of confiscated goods, surplus or unserviceable government stores and unclaimed parcels, HK\$63 million was added to Government revenue," Mr Shipman noted.

End

#### Native-speaking English teachers sought

\* \* \* \* \*

The Education Department is recruiting native-speaking English teachers for secondary schools for the school year commencing this September.

The recruitment is part of a Native-speaking English Teachers (NETs) Scheme which followed the Government's acceptance of a recommendation in Education Commission Report No. 6 that schools should be encouraged to employ on local terms more native English speakers who are qualified English language teachers to teach the subject.

The Scheme will be in its second year of implementation in the 1997-98 school year.

The NETs may be employed by schools direct or through the Education Department to fill either graduate or non-graduate teaching vacancies.

Candidates who wish to apply for the NET posts must be native English speakers and should possess (i) a Bachelor's degree, preferably majoring in English Language or English Literature or English Studies or a Modern Language; and (ii) a Post-graduate Certificate in Education or equivalent; and (iii) at least one year's experience of teaching English at secondary level or above (Category A).

Alternatively, they should possess (i) a recognized Certificate in Education obtained after at least two years' full-time study; and (ii) at least one year's experience of teaching English at secondary level or above (Category B).

Candidates with a Teaching of English as a Foreign Language or a Second Language (TEFL/TESL) qualification are preferred.

The appointment of NETs will be on a two-year contract, subject to renewal after expiry. The NETs will receive a gratuity of 25 per cent of total basic salary on completion of the contract. Free passages and baggage allowance will also be provided.

The salary scale is HK\$234,420 to HK\$493,680 per annum for Category (A) and HK\$202,320 to HK\$326,940 per annum for Category (B). Increments may be awarded for recognised post-qualification teaching experience at secondary school level or above.

Application forms are available from the Placement and Support Unit, Education Department, Hong Kong Government, 14th floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

The deadline for application is May 30, 1997.

Enquiries can be directed to the same office at 2892 5751 or by fax to 28926304.

End

### Quicker and greener access to Daily Information Bulletin

\* \* \* \* \*

To enhance public understanding of government policies, decisions and activities, the Daily Information Bulletin (DIB) issued by the Government Information Services (GIS) has been uploaded onto the Hong Kong Government Home Page on the Internet since April 1.

Internet users can now read the DIB under the News Update of the Government Home Page at <http://www.info.gov.hk/isd/news/index.htm>.

The DIB covers all the press releases and regular statistics and figures issued through GIS by various government departments.

A GIS spokesman said today (Sunday) that the new arrangement was also environment-friendly as more than 3.1 million sheets of A4-size paper could be saved each year, not to mention the postage, labour and other costs incurred in printing and mailing.

At present, 853 copies of the Chinese and English versions of the DIB are sent daily to subscribers, including local and overseas public organisations, consulates and the business community.

To tie in with the new arrangement, the DIB will no longer be sent to subscribers in the form of hard copies from May 1.

"Internet users can now view the DIB the day immediately after the press releases have been issued, compared with two or three days through the normal mailing method," the spokesman said.

"Major press releases issued by policy branches and government departments have already been included in the Internet since the end of 1995, yet the launch of the DIB on the Internet provides a more comprehensive set of government press releases which Internet users might find useful."

The News Update in the Government Home Page attracted more than 5,400 visitors in March.

End