



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

Friday, October 25, 1996

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Transcript of the Deputy to the Governor's media session	1
First AIDS Conference in Hong Kong	2
Travel agents advisory committee appointed	3
Food labelling requirements gazetted	4
Improved protection for employees on wage claims	4
Residential mortgage survey results for September released	6
Revision of fees under Dutiable Commodities Regulations	7
Provisional statistics of retail sales for August released	8
Statistics on ocean vessel and seaborne cargo	11
Student engineering projects exhibition	18
Postal service to India temporarily suspended	19
Remaining roadworks for West Kowloon Reclamation	19
Fresh water cut in Shau Kei Wan	20
A Kowloon lot for sale by tender	20
Firing practice in November	21
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	22

Transcript of the Deputy to the Governor's media session

* * * * *

The following is a transcript of the media session by the Deputy to the Governor, Mrs Anson Chan, after visiting the Australian International School today (Friday):

Question: (on stationing of PLA troops in Hong Kong before July 1, 1997)

Deputy to the Governor: The question of the advance party. The Chinese did give us a briefing on this recently but we hope that the Chinese side will be able to provide more details about what they have in mind and on the basis of those details we will clearly continue to discuss this issue with the Chinese side. We have not at this stage reached any understanding on this issue.

Question: Why don't you run for the Chief Executive. It's only a days away for applications.

Deputy to the Governor: I think you know my views on this very well. It remains my wish to continue to serve the people of Hong Kong after 1997 if circumstances permit.

Question: ... the debate of Parliament on Thursday.. setting up the Hong Kong future trade office. What is there to debate and what's the Hong Kong Government's input on that?

Deputy to the Governor: On the trade office? I am not aware of the debate on the trade office.

Question: On the ETO.

Deputy to the Governor: I don't think there is anything particular to debate. I think it is a fact that we will establish the economic and trade office in London. There is a question of the privileges and immunities. But I don't think that there is any particular controversy on that front.

Question: The opinion polls still consistently show you to be the most popular public figure in Hong Kong. Will you therefore put your name forward as a possible candidate of Chief Executive?

Deputy to the Governor: I am very grateful for the community's support. I will simply repeat what I said earlier in reply to another question and that is it remains my wish to continue to serve the people of Hong Kong after 1997 if circumstances permit. I do accept of course that it is not for me to say whether I will remain as Chief Secretary after 1997. Thank you.

End

First AIDS Conference in Hong Kong

* * * * *

Hong Kong's first AIDS Conference would focus on "Building New Hope Together", Chairman of the Organising Committee, Ms Carlye Tsui, said at a press conference today (Friday).

The conference, first of its kind in the territory, would be hosted by the Advisory Council on AIDS on November 8 to 9 at the Lam Woo International Conference Centre of the Hong Kong Baptist University.

Ms Tsui said the objectives of the AIDS conference are to promote education and research for improving the prevention, care and public health control programmes on HIV infection in Hong Kong.

It also aims to share experience in research on AIDS and to co-ordinate local efforts on planning and evaluation of programme on AIDS.

Sponsored by the Department of Health, the conference would be participated by healthcare providers, social workers, teachers, students, researchers, government officials, policy makers, voluntary workers, community leaders, people living with HIV/AIDS, and the media.

The programme of the two-day Conference comprises plenary, symposia, fora, workshops, exhibitions and cultural events.

The Organising Committee had invited Professor Zhang Kong Lai of China Aids Network, Dr Emile Fox, of UNAIDS China, and Ms Anna Wu to speak at the plenary session.

This would be followed by six symposia on clinical management, public health aspects of HIV/AIDS, prevention and education, social impacts, HIV care and role of non-government organisations.

In addition, there would be two workshops, one for teachers and one for trainers in developing training programmes on AIDS in workplace setting.

Members of the public are also welcome to take part in a public forum on AIDS run by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre on November 8.

Ms Tsui said responses to the first Hong Kong AIDS Conference had been good.

More than three hundred participants from Hong Kong, China and Macau had registered for the conference and some 80 abstracts had been received, she said, hoping that with the joint endeavour, the territory could create new hope in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

End

Travel agents advisory committee appointed

* * * * *

The Government announced in today's (Friday) Gazette appointments to the Advisory Committee on Travel Agents (ACTA).

Mr Tang Kwai-nang has been re-appointed as Chairman of ACTA for a period of two years from November 1 to October 31, 1998.

Eleven of the existing non-official members have also been re-appointed for the same period. They are Mrs Amy Chan Cheng Yi-yim, Mrs Pamela Chan, Ms Jasminia K Cheung, Mr Chow Yick-hay, Mr Simon Hau Suk-kei, Mr John Li Kwok-heem, Mr Dickson Pang Kam-fai, Mr Larry Sze Kwok-yiu, Mr Tam Kai-on, Mr Harold Wu, and Mr Howard Young.

The Deputy Secretary (Trade and Industry) 2 or the Principal Assistant Secretary (Trade and Industry) D remains an Official Member while the Registrar of Travel Agents remains an ex-officio member and the Secretary of ACTA.

In order to appoint more district personalities to advisory bodies, the Financial Secretary has agreed that Mr Wong King-cheung, a member of the Urban Council and the Southern District Board, be appointed for a term of two years from November 1.

"The re-appointment of serving non-official members would enable the Government to continue to benefit from their advice and to provide continuity," a government spokesman said.

End

Food labelling requirements gazetted

* * * * *

A number of food labelling requirements, which aim at offering better consumer protection, will come into operation on April 1, 1997.

The commencement notice of certain provisions stipulated in the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment) Regulation 1996 published earlier this year is gazetted today (Friday).

These requirements include the declaration of the percentage by weight or actual amount of the ingredients in any food of which label places emphasis on the presence or low content of that ingredient, for example high-calcium or low-fat products.

Amendments prescribing the composition of skimmed milk and semi-skimmed milk, requiring the marking of pre-packaged food which has undergone irradiation, as well as requiring the labelling of food name instead of just "fancy/brand name" of food will also be effected on the same date.

The maximum penalty for offences under the regulation is a fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months.

End

Improved protection for employees on wage claims

* * * * *

The government is proposing legislative amendments to improve protection to employees in their claims under the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Ordinance (PWIO).

The Protection of Wages on Insolvency (Amendment) Bill 1996 gazetted today (Friday), seeks to extend the application period for employees to claim for ex-gratia payments under the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund (Fund) from four months to six months.

Ex-gratia payments under the Fund cover arrears of wages, wages in lieu of notice and severance payment.

A spokesman for the Education and Manpower Branch said the amendment was introduced because there were cases where the employees had failed to apply to the Fund within the four-month application period due to ignorance or misplaced trust in their employers.

"During 1992 to 1995, the average number of such cases known to the Labour Department was 120 a year.

"Besides, in 500 cases or eight per cent of the applications handled every year, the applicants could only recover arrears of their wages in part because they had failed to apply to the Fund in the first instance," the spokesman said.

He said the proposed extension would benefit employees while at the same time still discourage delayed applications by some employees.

The Bill also provides that the coverage period for arrears of wages of four months should count from the last day of service rendered instead of from the date of application.

"These proposals give an employee longer time to make application to the Fund. They also ensure that an employee's four months' wages (subject to the maximum payment for arrears of wages of \$36,000) will be fully covered provided that he applies to the Fund within six months of his last day of service.

"We estimate that the annual additional payment arising from the proposals will be about \$6.8 million," the spokesman said.

Under PWIO, the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund Board which manages the Fund may recover payment to an employee out of the assets of the insolvent employer by way of subrogation.

According to the Bankruptcy Ordinance and the Companies Ordinance, payments from the Fund have priority over all other debts in case of bankruptcy or winding up of a company.

"To retain the preferential status of ex-gratia payments made by the Fund, we propose to make consequential amendments to the Bankruptcy Ordinance and the Companies Ordinance," the spokesman said.

The Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council on November 6.

End

Residential mortgage survey results for September released

* * * * *

The growth of residential mortgage loans for the purchase of properties in Hong Kong picked up at a moderate rate in September, according to the results of the latest monthly survey conducted by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA).

The latest figures show that the total amount of outstanding mortgage lending by the 33 institutions in the survey increased by 1% in September (0.6% in August) to \$307.8 billion. The growth rate is lower than the monthly average of 1.3% over the last 12 months.

"As expected, the growth of residential mortgage lending picked up during the month given the increased activity in the property market in August," said the Deputy Chief Executive of HKMA, Mr David Carse.

The annualised rate of growth in lending over the last three months decreased to 12.8% from 14.3% in the three-month period to August. The 12-month average of outstanding loans showed an annualised growth rate of 15.5%, compared with 16.2% in August.

The amount of new loans approved but not yet drawn rose by \$1.9 billion (22.9%) to \$10 billion in September.

"Judging from these figures and the sustained trading activity in the property market in September, the growth rate of outstanding loans is likely to be higher in October," said Mr Carse.

The amount of residential mortgage loans associated with co-financing schemes accounted for 3.3% of total mortgage lending of the 33 surveyed institutions at end-September. Of the \$14.2 billion new loans approved during September, about 85% were accounted for by properties aged 15 years or below.

Lending for the purchase of properties in China increased by 0.7% to \$5.9 billion in September.

Gross loans made in September decreased both in number (to 214 from 346) and in amount (to \$133 million from \$165 million). New loans approved in September decreased in number (to 316 from 338) but increased in amount (to \$308 million from \$238 million).

End

Revision of fees under Dutiable Commodities Regulations

* * * * *

Fees for dutiable commodities licences issued by the Customs and Excise Department and the related services provided under the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance will be revised with effect from December 6.

The new fees are stipulated in the Dutiable Commodities (Amendment) Regulation 1996, which is gazetted today (Friday).

Announcing the revision, a government spokesman said it was government policy to set fees based on the full-cost recovery principle.

He said most of these fees were set in 1963 when the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance was first enacted. While some were last revised in 1990, most had never been revised.

A recent costing review conducted by the department showed that most of these fees were substantially below cost, the spokesman explained.

"To avoid a sharp increase which may cause a burden to the dutiable commodities trade, we would revise most of the fees by phases over a five-year period in order to achieve 20, 40, 60, 80 and 100 per cent cost recovery respectively.

"For those fees which are currently at nominal rate, they will be raised to 20 per cent cost recovery in the first phase of this fees revision exercise," he said.

"The impact of the fees revision on the dutiable commodities trade as well as on inflation is minimal since the increase is small in absolute terms and the fees constitute a very small proportion of total operating costs," the spokesman said.

End

Provisional statistics of retail sales for August released

* * * * *

The value of total retail sales in August 1996, estimated at \$19.1 billion, increased by 5% when compared with August 1995, according to Provisional figures on retail sales released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department also show that.

After discounting the effect of price changes over the period, total retail sales increased by 1.5% in volume.

Compared with a year ago, sales of consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles went up by 9% in value and 8% in volume. Sales of motor vehicles also increased by 8% in value and 7% in volume, albeit at decelerated rates compared with those recorded in July 1996.

Concurrently, sales of most other commodities also recorded increases of various magnitudes in both value and volume terms.

These included miscellaneous consumer goods (12% in value and 6% in volume); jewellery, watches and clocks and valuable gifts (4% in value and 2% in volume); and clothing and footwear (9% in value and 1% in volume). Sales in department stores also rose by 5% in value and 1% in volume.

On the other hand, sales in supermarkets went up by 5% in value, but decreased by 1% in volume.

Besides, sales of food, alcoholic drinks and tobacco decreased by 8% in value and 6% in volume. These were partly attributable to less sales of mooncakes in August 1996, as the Mid-Autumn Festival took place in late September this year but early September last year.

Sales of fuels continued to show a decline, by 13% in value and 18% in volume, as a result of shift towards direct purchase from major fuels suppliers.

Compared with July 1996 (but bearing in mind that this comparison is affected by seasonal factors), total retail sales in August 1996 increased by 1% in both value and volume.

Comparing the period from January to August 1996 with the same period in 1995, total retail sales rose by 6% in value and 1% in volume.

The volume of retail sales is derived from the value of retail sales after adjusting for price changes. The relevant components of the consumer price index are used as deflators.

Table 1 presents the revised total retail sales figure for July 1996 and the provisional figure for August 1996.

Table 2 shows the value and volume indices of retail sales in August 1995, July 1996 and August 1996 for all retail outlets and by type of retail outlets, with average retail sales from October 1994 to September 1995 taken as 100.

Comparisons of the August 1996 results with those for July 1996 and those for August 1995, as well as comparison of retail sales in the period from January to August of 1996 with the same period in 1995 are also given.

The report containing the analysis of the August 1996 results is now on sale at \$4 per copy at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, ground floor, Low Block, 66 Queensway; and the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries about the survey results may be directed to the Wholesale and Retail Trade Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2802 1258.

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for August 1996 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$19,148.2 million
 for July 1996 (Revised Figure) = HK\$19,049.5 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RETAIL SALES FOR AUGUST 1995, JULY AND AUGUST 1996

(Monthly average of October 1994 - September 1995 = 100)

Type of Outlets	Type of Index	Index Number			% Change		
		August 1995 (Revised figures)	July 1996 (Revised figures)	August 1996 (Provisional figures)	Aug 1996 compared with Jul 1996	Aug 1996 compared with Aug 1995	Jan - Aug 1996 compared with Jan - Aug 1995
		(Point)	(Point)	(Point)	(%)	(%)	(%)
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS							
	Value	104.8	109.7	110.3	+0.5	+5.2	+5.7
	Volume	103.2	103.9	104.8	+0.9	+1.5	+0.9
(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLETS							
Food, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	106.3	106.1	98.0	-7.6	-7.8	+5.7
	Volume	99.2	100.8	93.6	-7.1	-5.7	+1.7
Supermarkets ϕ	Value	107.0	113.5	112.5	-0.9	+5.1	+8.0
	Volume	104.0	104.4	103.2	-1.2	-0.8	+1.4
Fuels	Value	122.5	104.8	106.1	+1.3	-13.4	-1.6
	Volume	119.0	95.4	97.6	+2.3	-18.0	-8.2
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	111.6	115.3	121.1	+5.1	+8.5	+11.3
	Volume	112.2	106.0	113.4	+7.0	+1.1	+3.6
Consumer durable goods	Value	86.3	97.7	93.7	-4.1	+8.6	+1.1
	Volume	85.6	96.4	92.3	-4.2	+7.9	+0.4
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	80.1	103.5	86.7	-16.3	+8.3	-8.4
	Volume	80.0	102.2	85.6	-16.3	+7.0	-8.6
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	90.1	94.2	98.0	+4.0	+8.7	+6.5
	Volume	89.0	92.9	96.4	+3.8	+8.3	+5.4
Department stores	Value	103.1	104.7	108.7	+3.8	+5.4	+3.8
	Volume	103.0	98.7	103.6	+5.0	+0.7	-1.4
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts	Value	91.6	99.4	95.4	-4.0	+4.2	+1.5
	Volume	89.7	96.3	91.8	-4.6	+2.3	-2.5
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	122.7	130.1	136.9	+5.2	+11.6	+10.1
	Volume	121.9	123.5	129.8	+5.1	+6.5	+5.2

NOTE : ϕ Not including supermarkets operating in department stores.
 The underlined figures were rounded up to 5.

End

Statistics on ocean vessel and seaborne cargo

* * * * *

In the second quarter of 1996, 9,919 ocean vessels with a total capacity of 45.5 million net registered tons entered Hong Kong, according to the statistics released today by the Census and Statistics Department. Compared with the second quarter of 1995, number of vessels decreased by 6%, while capacity increased by 5%.

Net registered ton (NRT) is a unit of measure in volume terms of the space of a vessel available for carrying passengers or goods. One NRT is equivalent to 100 cubic feet.

During the same period, there were 9,909 outgoing ocean vessels with a total capacity of 45.4 million net registered tons, representing a decrease of 7% in number and an increase of 4% in capacity over the second quarter of 1995.

In the second quarter of 1996, the total tonnage of seaborne inward cargo, comprising seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment, was estimated to be 21.5 million tonnes, representing a decrease of 9% over the same quarter in 1995.

Within this total, the tonnage of seaborne imports fell by 8%, while that of seaborne inward transshipment by 18%.

During the same period, the total tonnage of seaborne outward cargo, comprising seaborne exports (domestic exports plus re-exports) and seaborne outward transshipment, was estimated to be 9.3 million tonnes, representing a decrease of 10% over the same quarter in 1995.

The respective declines in the total tonnage of seaborne exports and seaborne outward transshipment were 7% and 15%.

Of the seaborne inward cargo, 84% in terms of tonnage were seaborne imports and 16% were seaborne inward transshipment. 55% of these cargoes were containerised.

Of the seaborne outward cargo, 59% in terms of tonnage were seaborne exports and 41% were seaborne outward transshipment. 87% of them were containerised cargo.

The above statistics are summarised in Table 1.

In the second quarter of 1996, the top five countries of loading for seaborne inward cargo were Singapore (which accounted for 16% in tonnage terms), Japan (13%), China (11%), Taiwan (10%) and the USA (9%). The top five countries of discharge for seaborne outward cargo were China (25%), the USA (20%), Taiwan (7%), Japan (6%) and the Federal Republic of Germany (5%).

The top five principal commodities of seaborne inward cargo in tonnage terms include petroleum, petroleum products and related materials (19%); coal, coke and briquettes (10%); iron and steel (8%); artificial resins and plastic materials (8%) and paper and paper products (6%).

The top five principal commodities of seaborne outward cargo in tonnage terms include machinery (13%); other manufactured goods classified chiefly by material (10%); petroleum, petroleum products and related materials (7%); other manufactured articles (7%) and toys (6%).

The distribution of the top ten countries of loading and discharge and their changes in the tonnage of seaborne inward and outward cargo between the second quarter of 1996 and the second quarter of 1995 are shown in Table 2 and Table 3.

Similar statistics for seaborne inward and outward cargo analysed by the top ten principal commodities are shown in Table 4 and Table 5.

Ocean vessel statistics are compiled primarily from general declarations submitted to the Marine Department by ship masters or authorised shipping agents and cover all ocean vessels entering and leaving Hong Kong, excluding yachts and pleasure craft.

Seaborne cargo statistics are compiled from a sample of consignments listed in the ocean cargo manifests supplied by shipping companies or agents to the Census and Statistics Department. The sampling method is described in the Explanatory Notes of the report.

More details of ocean vessel and seaborne cargo statistics for the second quarter of 1996 are contained in the bilingual report "Hong Kong Shipping Statistics, April - June 1996".

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

Enquiries on statistics contained in the report may be directed to the Shipping and Cargo Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2582 4887.

Table 1: Summary of ocean vessel and seaborne cargo statistics

	2nd quarter <u>1996</u>	% change over 2nd quarter <u>1995</u>
Incoming ocean vessel		
Number	9 919	-6
Capacity (Mn. net registered tons)	45.5	+5
Seaborne inward cargo (Mn. tonnes)	21.5 (55)	-9
Seaborne imports (Mn. tonnes)	18.0 (46)	-8
Seaborne inward transshipment (Mn. tonnes)	3.5 (98)	-18
Outgoing ocean vessel		
Number	9 909	-7
Capacity (Mn. net registered tons)	45.4	+4
Seaborne outward cargo (Mn. tonnes)	9.3 (87)	-10
Seaborne exports (Mn. tonnes)	5.5 (78)	-7
(domestic exports plus re-exports)		
Seaborne outward transshipment (Mn. tonnes)	3.8 (99)	-15

Note: Figures in brackets denote the extent of containerization in percentage.

Table 2: Seaborne inward cargo ⁽¹⁾ by top ten countries of loading

<u>Country of loading</u>	2nd quarter		% change over
	<u>1996</u>	<u>% share⁽²⁾</u>	<u>2nd quarter 1995</u>
	('000 tonnes)		
Singapore	3 531	16	-4
Japan	2 749	13	-8
China	2 440	11	-20
Taiwan	2 235	10	*
U.S.A.	1 971	9	-11
Republic of Korea	1 194	6	-21
Indonesia	920	4	-22
Republic of South Africa	889	4	-15
Australia	656	3	-45
Thailand	500	2	-2

Notes: (1) Seaborne inward cargo comprises seaborne imports and seaborne inward transhipment.

(2) % share in total tonnage of seaborne inward cargo.

(*) Change of less than 0.5%.

Table 3: Seaborne outward cargo⁽¹⁾ by top ten countries of discharge

<u>Country of discharge</u>	2nd quarter		% change over
	<u>1996</u>	<u>% share⁽²⁾</u>	<u>2nd quarter 1995</u>
	(' 000 tonnes)		
China	2 305	25	*
U.S.A.	1 833	20	-11
Taiwan	657	7	-17
Japan	520	6	+9
Federal Republic of Germany	438	5	-2
Singapore	372	4	-11
Netherlands	326	4	-28
United Kingdom	295	3	-2
Thailand	203	2	-19
Philippines	199	2	-42

Notes: (1) Seaborne outward cargo comprises seaborne exports (domestic exports plus re-exports) and seaborne outward transshipment.

(2) % share in total tonnage of seaborne outward cargo.

(*) Change of less than 0.5%.

Table 4: Seaborne inward cargo⁽¹⁾ by top ten principal commodities

<u>Commodity group</u>	2nd quarter		% change over
	<u>1996</u>	<u>% share⁽²⁾</u>	<u>2nd quarter 1995</u>
	(' 000 tonnes)		
Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	4 028	19	*
Coal, coke and briquettes	2 072	10	-41
Iron and steel	1 705	8	+11
Artificial resins and plastic materials	1 700	8	-10
Paper and paper products	1 325	6	+5
Other manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1 207	6	-12
Machinery	953	4	-5
Cement and cement clinker	772	4	-7
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	687	3	-2
Other chemicals and related products	564	3	+4

Notes: (1) Seaborne inward cargo comprises seaborne imports and seaborne inward transshipment.

(2) % share in total tonnage of seaborne inward cargo.

(*) Change of less than 0.5%.

Table 5: Seaborne outward cargo⁽¹⁾ by top ten principal commodities

<u>Commodity group</u>	2nd quarter		% change over
	<u>1996</u>	<u>% share⁽²⁾</u>	<u>2nd quarter 1995</u>
	000 tonnes)		
Machinery	1 232	13	+12
Other manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	901	10	-16
Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	678	7	+21
Other manufactured articles	676	7	-16
Toys	548	6	+4
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	384	4	-16
Artificial resins and plastic materials	374	4	-12
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	319	3	-18
Footwear	303	3	-19
Inorganic chemicals	236	3	-20

Notes: (1) Seaborne outward cargo comprises seaborne exports (domestic exports plus re-exports) and seaborne outward transshipment.

(2) % share in total tonnage of seaborne outward cargo.

End

Student engineering projects exhibition

* * * * *

The Education Department will stage an exhibition tomorrow (Saturday) on students' projects on metalworks, and electronics and electricity.

The display aims at encouraging teachers and students to think creatively through planning and working in engineering and promoting technical subjects as part of general education.

Some 120 projects by secondary five students from 18 prevocational schools submitted to the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examinations (HKCEE) for assessment are displayed.

To design and conduct their own projects, students had to analyse the questions set out for HKCEE carefully and carry out thorough research.

Despite the limitation of resources, they managed to realise their imagination and creativity by using the tools and facilities available in their schools.

The displays, including a trolley, a mechanical robot arm, a quiz-master system and a battery voltage level indicator, showed originality and demonstrated the students' expertise in craftsmanship.

The exhibition will run until November 9. About 1,000 students have already signed in to visit the exhibition.

The opening hours are from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 2 pm to 4.30 pm from Monday to Friday and from 9 am to 11.30 am on Saturday.

Members of the public are welcome to visit the exhibition at the Technical Teaching Centre on the ground floor, 145 Junction Road, Lok Fu, Kowloon.

End

Postal service to India temporarily suspended

* * * * *

Owing to the strike of postal employees in India, all postal services to that country, except Speedpost, are temporarily suspended with immediate effect, the Postmaster General, Mr Robert Footman, announced today (Friday).

Nevertheless, he said, items sent by Speedpost could be subject to delay.

As the strike was started on Wednesday (October 23), mail sent to India during the last few days may subject to delay.

A further announcement will be made as soon as normal services are resumed.

End

Remaining roadworks for West Kowloon Reclamation

* * * * *

The Territory Development Department is inviting tenders for the construction of remaining roadworks stage I in West Kowloon Reclamation.

A total of four kilometres of at-grade roads and related drainage works, a 175 metre highway bridge and a footbridge are to be built. Other works include laying of fresh and salt water mains and landscaping.

Construction will commence in January next year for completion in 23 months.

Forms of tender and further particulars can be obtained from the consulting engineers, Messrs Mott MacDonald Hong Kong Ltd, 12th floor, Sun Hung Kai Centre, 30 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Tenders must be clearly marked and addressed to the Chairman of the Central Tender Board. They must be placed in the Government Secretariat tender box at the lower ground floor lift lobby, Central Government Offices (East Wing), 20 Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong before noon on November 22.

Late tenders will not be accepted.

End

Fresh water cut in Shau Kei Wan

* * * * *

The fresh water supply to some premises in Shau Kei Wan will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on October 28 (Monday) to 6 am the following day for waste detection work on watermains.

The suspension will affect:

- * all even number premises between Nos 116 to 288A and all odd number premises between Nos 117 to 227A Shau Kei Wan Road;
- * all even number premises between Nos 2A to 4 Shing On Street;
- * Holy Cross Path,
- * all even number premises between Nos 2 to 116 and odd number premises between Nos 1 to 63 Sai Wan Ho Street,
- * Hoi Lee Street,
- * Hoi Ning Street,
- * Hoi An Street,
- * Hoi Foo Street,
- * Hoi Ching Street and
- * Hing Man Street.

End

A Kowloon lot for sale by tender

* * * * *

The Lands Department is inviting tenders for the sale of a piece of government land at the junction of Po Kong Village Road and Hammer Hill Road in Kowloon.

With an area of about 25,702 square metres, the lot is for residential purpose under the private sector participation scheme.

The closing date for submission of tenders is noon on December 20.

Tender form, tender notice and conditions can be obtained from the Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong; and the Kowloon District Lands Office, 10th floor, Yau Ma Tei Car park Building, 250 Shanghai Street, Kowloon.

Tender documents will also be available at the district lands offices of Sha Tin, Tai Po, North, Yuen Long, Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing, Tuen Mun, Sai Kung and Islands.

End

Firing practice in November

* * * * *

Firing practice will take place at the Ha Tsuen/Castle Peak Range on 16 days next month. The public is advised not to enter the area when red flags are hoisted.

Following are the dates and times for the firing practice:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
November 4 (Monday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 5 (Tuesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 6 (Wednesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 7 (Thursday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 11 (Monday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 12 (Tuesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 13 (Wednesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 14 (Thursday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 19 (Tuesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 20 (Wednesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 21 (Thursday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 22 (Friday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 25 (Monday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 26 (Tuesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 27 (Wednesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 28 (Thursday)	8.30 am - 5 pm

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	2,189	0930	+307
Closing balance in the account	2,331	1000	+307
Change attributable to:		1100	+310
Money market activity	+314	1200	+313
LAF today	- 172	1500	+313
		1600	+314

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.9 *+0.1* 25.10.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/MTRC				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.97	2 years	2808	6.00	100.31	5.89
1 month	4.91	3 years	3910	6.28	99.98	6.39
3 months	4.98	5 years	5109	7.32	101.96	6.95
6 months	5.07	7 years	7308	7.24	100.28	7.31
12 months	5.33	5 years	M503	7.35	100.75	7.29

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$8,668 million

Closed October 25, 1996

End