



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Traffic management scheme along Island Eastern Corridor

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A traffic management scheme will be implemented along the Island Eastern Corridor (IEC) to relieve the traffic congestion over the section of the IEC eastbound between Man Hong Street and the interchange with the Eastern Harbour Crossing (EHC). The scheme will be implemented with effect from 10 am on August 20 (Sunday).

A spokesman for the Transport Department said today (Friday) that the scheme would involve:

- * An all day ban on traffic, except franchised buses, from Man Hong Street from entering EHC direct via the eastbound approach;
- * Signalisation of two junctions in Lei King Wan to improve traffic circulation and provide controlled pedestrian crossing facilities in anticipation of diverted tunnel traffic from Man Hong Street;
- * Introduction of a 120-metre long bus lane in the IEC at the interchange with EHC to maintain existing direct franchised bus routes from Man Hong Street to EHC; and
- * Modifications to gantry signs in the IEC to improve information to motorists for lane selection so as to achieve more efficient utilization of lanes.

"As a result, the tunnel-bound traffic from Man Hong Street slip road will be guided to route via the eastbound IEC, the Sai Wan Ho/Lei King Wan area and the westbound IEC in order to reach the westbound approach to the EHC to Kowloon East. This will improve the traffic flow along eastbound IEC," he said.

At present, traffic congestion was observed during evening peak hours at the eastbound approach to the EHC. The congestion problem is mainly due to the capacity of the EHC being reached during peak hours.

When this happens, traffic queues inevitably build up from the tunnel portal and extend onto the carriageway of the IEC. Traffic from Man Hong Street slip road would have to wait on the IEC for merging into the tunnel-bound traffic queue, thus creating blockage to the eastbound through traffic along the IEC.

The spokesman said the traffic management scheme aimed at eliminating the merging conflict by prohibiting all vehicles, except franchised buses, from Man Hong Street slip road to merge into the middle lane to head for the EHC.

"Motorists from Man Hong Street slip road will be guided to access the EHC from the westbound approach. A pilot test for the proposed scheme was conducted between December 12 and 15 last year. The results showed significant increase in traffic flows as well as reduction of traffic queue length and journey time," he said.

He pointed out in particular that adequate directional signs indicating "Kowloon East" would be displayed on the existing overhead gantry signs along the eastbound IEC and erected in the Sai Wan Ho/Lei King Wan area to guide the tunnel-bound traffic from Man Hong Street slip road.

Advance warning sign indicating "Bus Lane Ahead" and symbolic bus lane signs would be displayed at prominent locations to alert motorists and facilitate bus operation.

Highways Department will paint the road markings associated with the scheme at night on August 18 and 19 when temporary lane closure on the IEC will be required. Adequate temporary traffic diversion signs will be provided to guide motorists.

At 10 am on August 20, traffic police will standby at the affected section of the IEC and associated road junctions. They will assist in directing traffic when necessary. The New Hong Kong Tunnel Company will also help regulating traffic from both the eastbound and westbound approaches if necessary.

The spokesman appealed to motorists to drive with caution particularly along the affected section of eastbound IEC and to strictly follow the directions as indicated by the traffic signs and road markings.

"If road marking cannot be completed by August 20 due to inclement weather, implementation of the traffic management scheme will be deferred to the subsequent Sunday," he said.

End/Friday, August 11, 1995

Steps taken to ensure an open Government

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Significant strides had been taken over the past year to make the Government more open and accountable, the acting Governor, Mrs Anson Chan, said today (Friday). Speaking at the Textile Council luncheon, Mrs Chan also stressed that much has been achieved in strengthening the protection on basic human freedom.

It should be recognised that what the Government had done not only in legislating against discrimination but also in promoting the values of equality, she said. She said the Administration had been charged with "dragging its feet" in some areas when in fact substantial progress had been made.

These included review of the laws that might impact on press freedom or freedom of expression and to improve the transparency of the Government.

"In all cases, our aim has been to provide for a proper balance between public order and safety and the individual's right to freedom of assembly and speech," she said.

"The moves that we have made ensure that our legal powers are fully consistent with the Bills of Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as applied to Hong Kong."

The enactment of the Sex Discrimination and Disability Discrimination ordinances during the last legislative session was something of which Hong Kong could justifiably be proud of, said Mrs Chan. The acting Governor noted that within the space of a year, a practical and effective Code on Access to information held by the Government had been developed.

"So, this is a working and effective administrative access system that is enhancing the transparency of the Government," she said.

To conclude, Mrs Chan said: "I believe that over the past year, we have made significant strides in making the Government more open and more accountable and in protecting the basic human freedoms which we all treasure.

"These freedoms coupled with our rule of law, now bolstered by enactment of the Court of Final Appeal Ordinance, and an open economy are what makes Hong Kong such an attractive place in which to live and work."

End/Friday, August 11, 1995

Civic Education Exhibition

Do you want to get yourself acquainted with the rights and protections enshrined in the newly passed Sex Discrimination Ordinance and Disability Discrimination Ordinance, but in an innovative and entertaining way? Then, you should not miss the chance of visiting the "Civic Education Exhibition 1995" which will begin tomorrow (Saturday) in the main concourse of the Ocean Terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui.

Organised by the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education, the exhibition aims to promote its work theme of this year: "Equal Opportunities and Elimination of Discrimination".

Exhibits depicting the major principles of the two new anti-discrimination laws will be on display in the 285-square-metre venue.

Those eager to face a challenge on their understanding of the legislation can pit their talents against two electronic quiz games.

What's more? An eye-catching four-metre long mechanical set-up, in which some movable cartoon figures will spell out the basic rights of children, will be featured in the venue.

Videos on world children by the Hong Kong Committee for United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will also be screened to let visitors know more about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was extended to Hong Kong in October last year.

Another interesting demonstration will focus on the Basic Law to familiarise the public with their rights and obligations under the future Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government.

Other highlights are the winning entries of the Cartoon/Illustration Competition on Equal Opportunities and Elimination of Discrimination, and the top three Outstanding Civic Education Projects for 1994-95.

The exhibition will last until Monday (August 14) before moving to other venues including the Lok Fu Shopping Centre in Wong Tai Sin, the Metroplaza in Kwai Chung and the New Town Plaza in Sha Tin in the next few months. Admission is free and exquisite gifts will be available for distribution.

Attention News Editors:

The Director of Home Affairs, Mr Joseph W P Wong, and Chairman of the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education, Mr Moses Cheng Mo-chi, will officiate at the opening and prize-presentation ceremony of the Civic Education Exhibition 1995 tomorrow.

Your representatives are invited to cover the event which will begin at 2 pm at the main concourse of the Ocean Terminal, Tsim Sha Tsui.

End/Friday, August 11, 1995

External trade statistics by country and commodity for June

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The Census and Statistics Department today (Friday) released detailed statistics on external trade with breakdown by country/territory and commodity for June 1995.

The value of re-exports continued to increase notably, by 17% over a year earlier to \$93.9 billion in June 1995.

Comparing June 1995 with June 1994, the value of re-exports to all of the main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes: Singapore (+37%), Netherlands (+34%), Taiwan (+29%), Japan (+25%), France (+23%), China (+18%), the United Kingdom (+14%), Germany (+11%), the United States (+9.6%) and South Korea (+4.0%).

Changes in the value of Hong Kong's re-exports to 10 main destinations are shown in Table 1.

The value of re-exports in the first half of 1995 was \$515.2 billion, 20% higher than that in the same period in 1994.

Comparing the first half of 1995 with the same period in 1994, the value of re-exports to all main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes: Singapore (+34%), Japan (+28%), Taiwan (+25%), France (+25%), the Netherlands (+23%), China (+22%), the United States (+16%), South Korea (+13%), the United Kingdom (+11%) and Germany (+6.9%).

Table 2 shows changes in the value of re-exports of ten principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first half of 1995 with the same period in 1994, increases of various magnitudes were recorded in the value of re-exports of most principal commodity divisions. More notable increases were registered for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$15.8 billion or 43%); telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$11.4 billion or 27%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$10.2 billion or 63%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$9.6 billion or 19%); textiles (by \$8.3 billion or 22%); and photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$4.6 billion or 25%).

Over the same period, re-exports of clothing fell by \$1.1 billion, representing a small decrease of 2.6% over a year earlier.

The value of domestic exports in June 1995, at \$20.6 billion, increased by 4.5% over a year earlier.

Comparing June 1995 with June 1994, increases were recorded in the value of domestic exports to Taiwan (+49%), the Philippines (+27%), Canada (+15%), Japan (+8.3%), the United Kingdom (+6.6%), the Netherlands (+6.6%) and China (+2.9%). However, the value of domestic exports to Singapore, the United States and Germany decreased by 6.1%, 1.3% and 1.3% respectively.

Changes in the value of domestic exports to ten main destinations are shown in Table 3.

Comparing the first half of 1995 with the same period in 1994, the value of domestic exports to most main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes: Taiwan (+30%), Japan (+24%), the Philippines (+16%), the Netherlands (+13%), Canada (+11%), China (+7.6%), Singapore (+6.4%), the United Kingdom (+5.8%) and the United States (+5.6%).

However, the value of domestic exports to Germany decreased marginally, by 0.7%.

Taking all destinations together, the value of domestic exports in the first half of 1995, at \$108.1 billion, increased markedly, by 9.4% over the same period in 1994.

Table 4 shows changes in the value of domestic exports of ten principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first half of 1995 with the same period in 1994, increases in the value of domestic exports were registered for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$2.8 billion or 24%); clothing (by \$2.2 billion or 7.7%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$1.5 billion or 19%); photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$884 million or 12%); and plastics in primary forms (by \$459 million or 25%).

Over the same period, decreases in the value of domestic exports were recorded for telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$511 million or 9.1%); and textiles (by \$117 million or 1.6%).

The value of imports continued to increase substantially, by 16% over a year earlier to \$128.9 billion in June 1995.

Changes in the value of imports from ten main suppliers are shown in Table 5.

Comparing June 1995 with June 1994, the value of imports from all main suppliers showed increases of various magnitudes : France (+74%), Malaysia (+42%), South Korea (+30%), the United Kingdom (+30%), Germany (+19%), Taiwan (+17%), China (+15%), Japan (+12%), Singapore (+9.4%) and the United States (+1.5%).

Comparing the first half of 1995 with the same period in 1994, the value of imports from all main suppliers showed increases of various magnitudes: France (+83%), Malaysia (+43%), South Korea (+34%), Singapore (+33%), the United States (+30%), Taiwan (+25%), Germany (+23%), the United Kingdom (+22%), Japan (+20%) and China (+19%).

The value of imports in the first half of 1995, at \$711.4 billion, increased markedly, by 24% over the same period in 1994.

Table 6 shows changes in the value of imports of ten principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first half of 1995 with the same period in 1994, increases were recorded in the value of imports of all principal commodity divisions. More notable increases were registered for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$24.2 billion or 39%); telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$13.5 billion or 25%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$10.5 billion or 51%); textiles (by \$10.1 billion or 17%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$7.5 billion or 19%); photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$5.3 billion or 21%); and general industrial machinery and equipment, and machine parts (by \$3.8 billion or 19%).

All the trade statistics described here are measured at current prices and no account has been taken of changes in prices between the periods of comparison.

A separate analysis of the volume and price movements of external trade for June 1995 will be released in early September 1995.

Detailed trade statistics analysed by commodity and by country/territory are published in trade statistics reports.

The June 1995 issue of the "Hong Kong External Trade" with detailed analyses on the performance of Hong Kong's external trade in June 1995 will be available for sale at \$122 per copy around August 22.

The report can be purchased at either (i) the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, or (ii) the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Enquiries regarding regular subscription to this report may be directed to the Publications (Sales) Office, 28th Floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong, Tel 2598 8194, and enquiries on trade statistics to the Census and Statistics Department on 2582 4915.

TABLE 1 : RE-EXPORTS TO TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	JUN 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JUN 95 OVER JUN 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-JUN 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-JUN 95 OVER JAN-JUN 94 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	33,067	+ 17.7	184,527	+ 22.0
UNITED STATES	20,505	+ 9.6	104,799	+ 16.3
JAPAN	4,888	+ 24.7	29,918	+ 28.1
GERMANY	3,838	+ 11.0	20,697	+ 6.9
UNITED KINGDOM	2,673	+ 14.2	13,627	+ 11.4
TAIWAN	2,444	+ 29.4	13,384	+ 24.9
SINGAPORE	2,222	+ 37.0	12,058	+ 34.0
SOUTH KOREA	1,554	+ 4.0	9,287	+ 13.3
FRANCE	1,387	+ 22.5	7,880	+ 24.7
NETHERLANDS	1,403	+ 34.2	7,726	+ 23.0

TABLE 2 : RE-EXPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JUN 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JUN 95 OVER JUN 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-JUN 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-JUN 95 OVER JAN-JUN 94 (% CHANGE)
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	11,673	+ 10.9	59,433	+ 19.3
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	9,315	+ 13.1	54,263	+ 26.5
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	9,624	+ 43.0	52,175	+ 43.5
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	8,448	+ 11.0	46,550	+ 21.7
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	7,254	- 5.5	39,710	- 2.6
FOOTWEAR	5,476	+ 12.8	29,027	+ 13.8
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	4,559	+ 56.0	26,380	+ 63.4
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	4,040	+ 15.1	23,180	+ 24.8
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	3,171	+ 12.6	17,020	+ 17.7
GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS	2,553	+ 17.6	15,030	+ 16.8

TABLE 3 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	JUN 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JUN 95 OVER JUN 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-JUN 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-JUN 95 OVER JAN-JUN 94 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	5,700	+ 2.9	30,660	+ 7.6
UNITED STATES	5,383	- 1.3	26,741	+ 5.6
SINGAPORE	1,044	- 6.1	6,124	+ 6.4
JAPAN	903	+ 8.3	5,841	+ 24.3
GERMANY	1,239	- 1.3	5,578	- 0.7
UNITED KINGDOM	1,013	+ 6.6	4,750	+ 5.8
TAIWAN	659	+ 49.3	3,615	+ 29.9
NETHERLANDS	511	+ 6.6	2,383	+ 13.1
CANADA	432	+ 14.9	1,993	+ 10.8
PHILIPPINES	238	+ 26.5	1,523	+ 15.5

TABLE 4 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JUN 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JUN 95 OVER JUN 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-JUN 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-JUN 95 OVER JAN-JUN 94 (% CHANGE)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6,946	+ 3.6	31,264	+ 7.7
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	2,757	+ 25.2	14,429	+ 24.1
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,755	+ 6.3	9,463	+ 4.2
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	1,458	- 0.3	9,373	+ 19.0
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,316	- 6.4	8,048	+ 12.3
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,310	+ 2.3	7,055	- 1.6
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	870	- 19.3	5,110	- 9.1
MANUFACTURES OF METALS	434	+ 11.7	2,293	+ 5.0
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	364	+ 4.7	2,275	+ 25.3
PAPER, PAPERBOARD, AND ARTICLES OF PAPER PULP, OF PAPER OR OF PAPERBOARD	264	+ 3.2	1,422	+ 9.6

TABLE 5 : IMPORTS FROM TEN MAIN SUPPLIERS

SUPPLIER	JUN 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JUN 95 OVER JUN 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-JUN 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-JUN 95 OVER JAN-JUN 94 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	46,430	+ 14.9	249,204	+ 19.4
JAPAN	19,676	+ 12.0	109,582	+ 20.5
TAIWAN	10,859	+ 16.6	62,489	+ 25.1
UNITED STATES	9,689	+ 1.5	54,395	+ 29.7
SINGAPORE	6,487	+ 9.4	37,245	+ 32.6
SOUTH KOREA	6,755	+ 30.2	37,231	+ 33.6
GERMANY	2,798	+ 18.6	16,053	+ 23.0
UNITED KINGDOM	2,721	+ 29.5	14,106	+ 21.9
FRANCE	2,195	+ 73.9	14,094	+ 82.8
MALAYSIA	2,408	+ 41.8	13,522	+ 42.9

TABLE 6 : IMPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JUN 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JUN 95 OVER JUN 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-JUN 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-JUN 95 OVER JAN-JUN 94 (% CHANGE)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	16,146	+ 37.5	85,770	+ 39.2
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	12,257	+ 12.2	67,882	+ 17.5
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	11,768	+ 17.6	67,075	+ 25.2
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	8,680	+ 8.6	46,099	+ 19.4
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	8,177	+ 0.4	43,400	+ 2.9
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	5,837	+ 45.4	31,333	+ 50.6
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	5,338	+ 5.7	30,586	+ 21.0
FOOTWEAR	4,512	+ 6.0	25,567	+ 13.2
ROAD VEHICLES	3,792	- 17.6	23,792	+ 1.0
GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS	3,879	+ 5.4	23,117	+ 19.5

End/Friday, August 11, 1995

Monitors' Report submitted to CS

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The monitors appointed to observe yesterday's transfer of 82 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) selected for the Orderly Repatriation Programme from Whitehead Detention Centre to Victoria Prison have submitted their report to the Chief Secretary today (Friday).

The four monitors comprised two non-official Justices of the Peace, Mr Christopher Cheng Wai-chee and Mr Edmond Lau Ting-chung; and representatives from two non-government organisations - Miss Marie Vander Elst from Medecins Sans Frontieres and Rev John A Aldis from Christian Action.

End/Friday, August 11, 1995

Land to be resumed for public housing development

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The Government will resume 67 private lots with a total area of 49,183 square metres in Area 52, Tuen Mun, for the provision of land for a public housing development project.

Site formation, road works and drainage works are scheduled to commence in early 1996. On completion of the site formation works, about seven hectares of land will be available for developing a public housing estate with 5,900 rental and Home Ownership Scheme flats.

Details of resumption were notified in the Gazette today (Friday).

The land will be reverted to the Government three months from the date of the Gazette Notice.

End/Friday, August 11, 1995

Tenders invited for out-patient clinic building

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for the construction of a new specialist out-patient clinic building at the Prince of Wales Hospital in Sha Tin.

The main works is the construction of a six-storey building with a gross floor area of 8,400 square metres. Facilities to be constructed include consultation rooms, minor operating theatres for various specialist out-patient clinics and car parks.

It is expected that works will start in November for completion in June 1997.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Architectural Services Department, 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway.

Tender offers will close at noon on September 8.

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Tenders invited for Diamond Hill development works

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The Civil Engineering Department is inviting tenders for the Phase I engineering works at Diamond Hill Development.

The works comprise the formation of 3.2 hectares of site at Diamond Hill, upgrading of the drainage system of the adjacent former quarry site to permanent standard, and the construction of 280 metres of retaining walls and 3,300 metres of surface channels.

Extensive survey will be carried out under this contract to locate the asbestos containing materials in the abandoned squatters and specialists will be employed to clear and dispose of the materials in an environmentally acceptable manner. The project is expected to commence in October and will take 18 months to complete.

On completion, the works will provide a 2.4 hectares site for a public housing project, a 0.6 hectares site for a skills opportunity school and a 0.2 hectares site for a fresh water pumping station.

The works have been designed and the construction will be supervised by the Development and Airport Division of the Civil Engineering Office, Civil Engineering Department.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Chief Engineer, Development and Airport Division, Civil Engineering Office, second floor, Civil Engineering Building, 101 Princess Margaret Road, Ho Man Tin, Kowloon.

Tender offer will close at noon on September 1.

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Tenders invited for footbridge extension

* * * * *

The Territory Development Department's New Territories North Development Office is inviting tenders to extend the existing Long Ping footbridge as part of the programme for the development of Yuen Long.

The work comprises the construction of a 325-metre footbridge extension with a cover, ramps and staircases across On Ning Road and Castle Peak Road. The extension will connect with an existing walkway within Yuen Long Plaza.

Works are expected to start in October for completion in about 20 months.

A notice inviting tenders was published in the Gazette today (Friday).

Tender forms and further particulars may be obtained from the office of Binnie Consultants Limited, 11th floor, New Town Centre, Pak Hok Ting Street, Sha Tin.

The closing date for submission of tenders is noon on September 1.

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Tenders invited for slope upgrading works

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The Civil Engineering Department is inviting tenders for upgrading 32 slopes and retaining walls throughout the territory under its accelerated Landslip Preventive Measures (LPG) Programme.

The Chief Geotechnical Engineer of the department's Geotechnical Engineering Office, Mr Allan Watkins, pointed out that the contracts for the upgrading works was the first one to be offered under the accelerated LPM Programme. He recalled the announcement by the Secretary for Works earlier this year that the Government's programme to upgrade government-owned man-made slopes listed in the 1977 Slope Catalogue would be completed by the year 2000 at a cost of some \$1.3 billion.

Mr Watkins said four contracts of a similar scale would be let this year and that at least four contracts per year were expected to be let over the five year duration of the programme.

"Studies on private slopes and retaining walls have also been accelerated considerably and that over 200 slopes will be studied in the year 95-96.

"A statutory notice will be served by the Buildings Department requiring owners to carry out upgrading works if the studies reveal a slope or a retaining wall is not up to the required standards," he said.

The contract works are expected to be completed in 27 months.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Chief Geotechnical Engineer/Works, Geotechnical Engineering Office, tenth floor, Civil Engineering Building, 101 Princess Margaret Road, Kowloon.

Tender offer will close at noon on September 1.

End/Friday, August 11, 1995

Three more nominations of LegCo candidates

* * * * *

Three candidates submitted their nomination papers for the Legislative Council Elections in September today (Friday).

They were Mr Kwok Yuen-hon for the Community, Social and Personal Services Functional Constituency (FC); Mr Ngan Kam-chuen for the Regional Council FC and Mr Li Wai-ip, for the Legal FC.

Personal particulars of the candidates are as follows:

Mr Kwok Yuen-hon

Sex: M

Age: 54

Occupation: company manager

Telephone: (Day) 2367 9766

(Night) 2741 7395

Inc/Pol*: Nil

Mr Ngan Kam-chuen

Sex: M

Age: 47

Occupation: senior bank manager

Telephone: (Day) 2474 9982

(Night) 2479 2643

Inc/Pol: Regional Council member(elected); Democratic Alliance for Betterment of Hong Kong

Mr Li Wai-ip

Sex: M

Age: 38

Occupation: solicitor

Telephone: (Day) 2525 9718

(Night) 2819 1739

Inc/Pol: Nil

* Inc - Incumbent District Board/Council member

Pol - Political Affiliation

That brings the total number of nominations to 126 as at the close of nomination today.

End/Friday, August 11, 1995

235 S6 places left for central allocation

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A total of 235 secondary 6 places are still available for central allocation when Stage V of the S6 admission procedure begins on Monday (August 14).

The vacancies comprise 91 in the arts, 22 in the science and 15 in the commercial streams using English as medium of instruction; 29 in the arts and six in the science streams using Chinese as medium of instruction; 65 in engineering and seven in commercial streams in prevocational schools.

A spokesman for the Education Department said central allocation in Stage V would begin at 9 am on Monday for current year Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) students with minimum A-level entry requirements to apply for.

Eligible students who still have not obtained an S6 place may apply for central allocation at one of the following centres before 3.30 pm on Monday:

Hong Kong Island:

Tang Shiu Kin Victoria Technical School
Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai

Kowloon Region:

Homantin Government Secondary School
8 Perth Street, Ho Man Tin

Kowloon Technical School
332 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Sham Shui Po

New Territories:

Tsuen Wan Government Secondary School
70 Hoi Pa Street, Tsuen Wan

Sha Tin Government Secondary School
11-17 Man Lai Road, Sha Tin

At the time of application, students will be provided with a list of schools with vacancies and they should indicate their choices, the spokesman said.

He said priority would be based solely on their HKCEE results.

The spokesman said the results would be displayed at 9 am on Friday (August 18) at the same centre where students applied for central allocation. Successful candidates should take their allocation slips to their chosen school for registration before 3.30 pm on the same day.

Meanwhile, the department receive three more complaints about schools not following the admission procedure today.

This brings to 12 the total number of complaints of which eight were substantiated since August 8. The cases have been settled after investigations by the department.

Up to 5.30 pm today, the department's central hotline (2782 7511, 2782 7625 and 2782 7639-40) and the district education offices have handled 627 enquiries on the admission procedures today. This brings to 2,421 the total number of enquiries made at the hotline and district education offices.

At the same time, the Careers Education Centre of the Education Department received 303 visitors and 229 telephone enquiries on matters related to the S6 admission procedures, further studies, locally and overseas, and careers by the time it closed at 5.30 pm today.

This brings to 1,442 the total number of people visited and 1,053 callers telephoned the centre since August 8.

The department's Psychological Services Section (Tel 2712 7958 and 2714 7852) manned by education counsellors or educational psychologists have today received 60 calls from students and parents. four needed counselling. This brings to 251 the total number of calls made to the section since the release of the HKCEE results on August 8.

The Careers Education Centre, at Room 206 of Mong Kok Government Offices at 30 Luen Wan Street, Mong Kok, provides students with materials on opportunities for further studies, training and information on various profession.

The centre will resume its normal office hours on Monday from 8.45 am to 12.45 pm and 2.15 pm to 4.45 pm from Mondays to Fridays, and 9.15 am to 11.45 am on Saturdays.

End/Friday, August 11, 1995

Revised fee for crown rent enquiry

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The Director of Accounting Services announced today (Friday) that the fee for enquiry of a crown rent account maintained by the Treasury will be revised from \$55 to \$60 with effect from August 14. The increase is to recover the costs incurred in providing such services.

End/Friday, August 11, 1995

Board re-named to show additional responsibilities

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The Country Parks Board has now been re-named the Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB) to reflect its additional responsibilities following the enactment of the Marine Parks Ordinance earlier this year.

At a CMPB meeting yesterday (Thursday), members endorsed the addition of a new committee and the re-organisation of its two former committees subsequent to the inclusion of marine parks and marine reserves into its responsibility areas. The proposal that a new Marine Parks Committee be established under CMPB was agreed. The committee will deal with matters relating to the planning and management of marine parks and marine reserves.

Members also supported the setting up of the Country Parks Committee to replace the Planning and Management Committee under the former Country Parks Board.

The changes have also brought about the amendments to the terms of reference of the existing Public Relations Committee to include publicity for marine parks and marine reserves.

At yesterday's meeting, members were also briefed on the progress on the study of potential country parks and special areas, which was being carried out in phases.

They noted that in the absence of additional resources, only areas with low or no resources implications were being considered at this stage.

The potential site at Tai Tong has been designated as part of the Tai Lam country park in April this year. With the inclusion of the woodland near Ma On Kong, a net gain of 40 hectares of land to the country park is resulted.

The studies on country park extension at Wan Tsai Peninsula in Sai Kung have been completed and the draft country park map was endorsed by the former Country Parks Board. This country park extension will be gazetted for consultation soon. The study on the country park extension at Lung Fu Shan on Hong Kong Island is at an advanced stage. Subject to the availability of resources, the process to designate it as a country park will begin.

Other potential sites to be studied for country park extensions include: North Lantau, South Lamma, Pat Sin Leng, Lam Tsuen, Tai Mo Shan, Sha Tin, Ma On Shan, Ma Shi Chau, Tung Lung Chau, Po Toi and Robin's Nest.

At the meeting, members also supported the draft maps and explanatory statements in connection with the proposals to designate Hoi Ha Wan, Yan Chau Tong, Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau as marine parks as well as Cape D'Aguilar as marine reserve.

End/Friday, August 11, 1995

Air Quality Report for July

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The Environmental Protection Department today (Friday) released air quality information for July.

The purpose of the announcement is to keep the public informed of the air quality levels in the territory and to explain the measurements.

The announcement contains monitoring results from Mong Kok, Central/Western and Kwai Chung, which represent three important land use types in the territory .:

- * locations close to road traffic in built-up urban areas,
- * combined commercial and residential districts, and
- * districts close to industrial areas.

The reported air pollutants include sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), total suspended particulates (TSP) which comprise all sizes of dust particles, and the respirable fraction of the dust (RSP). All these pollutants can affect respiratory health in sufficient concentration.

In July, there was no exceedances of the 24-hour Air Quality Objective values of the reported pollutants at any of the three sties.

Mong Kok reported the highest NO₂ and dust concentrations, which is to be expected from that street level site. RSP levels were about 50% of the total dust burden at all stations.

The most noteworthy event in the month was the effect that Severe Tropical Storm 'Gary' produced on Hong Kong's air quality when its centre was 300 to 600 km away from the territory.

The warm air rising up the centre of the storm, cooled, and descended around it. Air below that was trapped and emissions into that lower air could not disperse vertically. For this reason, NO₂ and RSP levels peaked in the afternoons at all three sites. At Mong Kok, NO₂ levels reached 60% of the 1-hour AQO.

The gases and particles described originated from various sources. SO₂ is mostly produced when fuels that contain sulphur are burned. NO₂ is formed during combustion by the combination of nitrogen and oxygen, and by the atmospheric oxidation of nitric oxide (NO), also a product of combustion.

Vehicle exhaust is an important source of NO and NO₂ in terms of impact on local air quality. It is also a major source of airborne particulate matter, especially the smaller respirable particles.

Diesel-engined vehicles such as taxis, public light buses, passenger coaches, franchised buses and light and heavy goods vehicles are the greatest contributor of particulate matter. Other sources include industry, furnaces and boilers, construction activities, the sea and the soil.

It is worth noting that while the weather and climate always affect the concentrations of pollutants in the air, the only sure way of reducing the levels is to reduce emissions from the man-made sources.

Attention News Editors:

For further information on this air quality report, please contact Mr S W Pang on 2594 6413.

End/Friday, August 11, 1995

Shark warnings remain in force

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Shark warning flags will continue to be hoisted at eight gazetted beaches in Sai Kung.

The public should stay away from these beaches as well as waters in the area while shark warning flags are in force, a spokesman for the Recreation and Culture Branch said today (Friday). "This decision to remain alert follows the sighting of a shark south of Tai Long Wan in Sai Kung on July 30," he said.

"A large number of eagle rays, a species regularly taken as prey by large sharks, have also been spotted."

Members of the public are advised to make use of the 27 swimming complexes under the management of the two municipal councils as far as possible.

If they wish to take a dip in the sea, or engage in water activities, they should do so only at other gazetted beaches or in waters outside Sai Kung.

"However, there is always a potential risk of shark attack if they swim in the sea," the spokesman warned.

"They should therefore remain vigilant and follow the advice of life-guards and policemen on duty. Due caution and personal responsibility for safety must be exercised."

The Government Flying Service will continue to survey the Sai Kung waters during the weekend to monitor the situation.

The eight gazetted beaches where shark warning flags have been hoisted are Campers, Clear Water Bay First, Clear Water Bay Second, Hap Mun Bay, Kiu Tsui, Pak Sha Chau, Silverstrand and Trio.

End/Friday, August 11, 1995

Water cut in the Peak area

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Fresh and flushing water supply to some premises in the Peak area will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Monday (August 14) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water mains leakage detection.

The affected areas will include Watford Road, Mansfield Road, Guildford Road, Coombe Road, Middle Gap Road, Mount Cameron Road, Rosmead Road, 22, 26, 30, 34-40, 44-46, 50, 21, 27-29 and 33-35 Magazine Gap Road, 1-3 and 2 Barker Road as well as 25, 26, 40-42 and 52-56 Peak Road.

End/Friday, August 11, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
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Opening balance in the account	1,172	0930	+374
Closing balance in the account	1,675	1000	+374
Change attributable to :		1100	+324
Money market activity	+323	1200	+323
LAF today	+180	1500	+323
		1600	+323

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 120.6 *+0.5* 11.8.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.71	2 years	2705	6.40	100.71	6.05
1 month	5.68	3 years	3807	6.16	99.22	6.56
3 months	5.65	5 years	5006	6.60	97.74	7.29
6 months	5.70	5 years	M501	7.90	101.21	7.73
12 months	5.74					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$37,132 million

Closed August 11, 1995

End/Friday, August 11, 1995