



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Transcript of the Governor's media session	1
Transcript of the CS's media session	5
Study on future land use of Tsing Yi	6
Proposed ways to improve industrial safety well received	6
Contract to rebuild Tai Tam Road awarded	8
Hong Kong-Osaka yacht race to be held in 1997	8
Penumbral eclipse of the moon on October 8 and 9	9
Two lots of land to let	10
Kowloon City District Office to be moved	10
Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results	11
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	12

Transcript of the Governor's media session

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Following is the transcript of the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's media session after opening the Telecom World today (Wednesday):

Governor: I hope you enjoyed the Telecom World as much as I did. It's very good to see another example of Hong Kong being at the front of the race in Asia and arguably in the world. I'd like to congratulate Hongkong Telecom on everything they've done here. Can I say a word about yesterday. I'm delighted by the agreement reached yesterday in London between Vice Premier Qian Qichen and Secretary of State Malcolm Rifkind. Sometimes international meetings display cordiality and grand sounding communiques. But what's really important particularly when one's dealing with the future of a community as important as Hong Kong is to be able to point to real and solid achievements. That's what both sides were able to do yesterday. As you'll recall in my address to the Legislative Council last October, I said that we put particular emphasis on our relationship with the Preparatory Committee and the team designate and we wanted to structure those in as helpful a way as possible. And I said we also wanted to help the civil service prepare for the transition in a way which reinforced their morale rather than lower or undermine their morale. There've been one or two controversial suggestions made on both those subjects. You'll be aware of them as well as I am. But I'm delighted that we can now put all that behind us. We've put proposals to the Chinese side during the course of the summer and they've accepted those proposals. We can now go ahead in a way which I hope will be encouraging for the civil service and for the community as a whole and in a way which will enable us to deal effectively with the difficult tasks, difficult but not impossible, that we have in the next year of co-operating with the Preparatory Committee and with the team designate of the Special Administrative Region. So all of us in the administration, the Chief Secretary, the Financial Secretary and I, are particularly pleased at the way things went yesterday in London. We'd like to express our gratitude for the way the discussions were handled.

Question: The democrats called it an outrage British government didn't bring up the question of through train for LegCo with Qian Qichen. What's your response to that?

Governor: Everybody knows what the British government's position is. And it was put as recently as last Friday, extremely forcefully by the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Jeremy Hanley in an interview with the World Service, a lengthy interview which I don't recall many of you reporting. He underlined the British government's position on the Legislative Council three times. But let me set out again for you the position held by the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, the Governor of Hong Kong, all of us. We've just had extremely successful elections to the Legislative Council. Obviously I'm pleased that despite what some of the skeptics have said over the years, within weeks of those very successful Legislative Council elections, we've also had these agreements reached on matters of substance in London. There was some people who would have denied that that was possible. But it's happened and I'm pleased about it. Now those elections have given Hong Kong what Hong Kong was promised - a broadly based, credible legislature, the most democratic legislature in Hong Kong's history. Again I repeat. As promised in the Joint Declaration, we see no reason whatsoever why that Legislative Council shouldn't complete its term in 1999, shouldn't go through the transition with appropriate measures taken to note the transfer of sovereignty in 1997. Any dismantling of the Legislative Council in 1997 would have to be explained to the people of Hong Kong. It doesn't seem to me to be very conducive to winning hearts and minds. And I think it would be disruptive. That's the position which we've taken. That's the position which the British government has taken. That's the position which the British Foreign Office Minister, Jeremy Hanley, set out in terms last Friday.

Question: We learned that civil servants will be allowed to have official meetings with Beijing leaders. How will that impact your message to the Legislature next week; your policy speech?

Governor: I'll be setting out what was agreed yesterday in my speech to the Legislative Council next week in rather more detail. And I think I'd like to leave the broader details about the proposals until then. We've been discussing the proposals with senior officials in the last day. The Chief Secretary and the Secretary for the Civil Service have been talking to their senior colleagues. In turn, their senior colleagues are talking to their departmental staff. I think I can say that there is a great deal of support for this approach in the civil service. I think people welcome the fact that we've put behind us some of the suggestions that were being made in the spring which I don't think people were very enthusiastic about and that we've agreed on the proposals which the Hong Kong government put forward in discussions with Chinese officials in the summer.

Question: How far should these discussions go? What is your fear of having civil servants meeting Beijing leaders?

Governor: I don't have any fear about discussions which will be held here in Hong Kong between Hong Kong civil servants and those who will be their colleagues after 1997, officials who have an interest in Hong Kong in parts of the Chinese government. I don't think anybody has any fear about that. We did have some anxieties about some of the proposals which you'll recall were being put earlier in the year, but I'm glad that they've now been put on one side.

Question: Mr Patten, come back to LegCo, you say that the British Government has set out a position before. Also the Chinese Government has set out its position before, and indeed for ... should the two sides talk about it and why don't you think that... should have been brought up by the British ...

Governor: The British Government made plain yesterday its total support for the approach that we've taken right across the board in Hong Kong. I think that you'll recall that we, with great patience, tried during 160 hours of talks in 1993 to find a way in which we could reach accommodation with Chinese officials. Alas, that didn't prove possible. The proposals themselves were agreed by the Legislative Council here in Hong Kong. They were deliberately designed to be fair, open and acceptable to the people of Hong Kong and they are as we demonstrated two or three weeks ago. So I hope that Chinese officials will recognise that one of the best ways of giving reassurance to Hong Kong will be recognising and talking to those who represent the people of Hong Kong and represent the people of Hong Kong as I am sure they will very responsibly in the Legislative Council.

Question: Do you agree with what the democrats said, the more communication with the Chinese side with the senior officials of Hong Kong, the greater influence of the Chinese Government on Hong Kong Government's administration?

Governor: I think that any legislators who are concerned about the proposals on trying to get a smooth transition from the civil service, should themselves talk to civil servants. I think they will find that there is a very wide measure of support within the civil service for the approach that we've taken for discussions which will take place under our auspices, here in Hong Kong and will enable civil servants in the Hong Kong Government to get to know those that they will be working with in parts of the Government in Peking.

Question: Still no word on meeting between you and Mr Lu Ping. Will these agreements actually replace the need ...

Governor: I think it would always be quickest and easiest for Director Lu and myself to meet face to face. But I don't think that we must allow any Chinese reluctance on that score to stop us getting on with solving Hong Kong's problems. Nor do I think there is any doubt. You've been here the last few months. You know what the argument and the debate has been. Then there isn't any doubt about where the proposals that were agreed here came from. They were made in Hong Kong. They were made within the Hong Kong Administration and I am delighted that they've proved acceptable to the Chinese side.

Question: Mr Patten, Do you feel disappointed ... You said you are delighted to see this agreement yesterday. But do you feel a little bit disappointed about there's no touch about the LegCo matter during the meetings of the two foreign ministers?

Governor: I would have been delighted of course if there had, during the course of the discussions, been an acceptance on the part of Chinese officials of the democratic process in Hong Kong. Sooner or later they are going to have to face up to that because it's what people in Hong Kong have been promised in the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law. It's not invented by the Government of Hong Kong. It's been promised to the people of Hong Kong by the future sovereign power as well as the present sovereign power. I would have been even more delighted therefore if that had been recognised there yesterday. But I hope that it will be recognised during the next couple of years because what we are talking about isn't some abstract set of arrangements. What we are talking about is the aspirations, the opinions, the involvement of the people of Hong Kong in their own destiny. And that's not something that anybody can simply turn their back on.

Question: The role of Governor hasn't been mentioned in the talks yesterday. So what do you think the role of Governor will be in the transitional period?

Governor: To go on governing Hong Kong. I repeat what I said earlier. I don't think any of you who've been covering the stories that were resolved satisfactorily yesterday have any doubt where we've been making policy and where we will continue to make policy. I had a good discussion with the Prime Minister yesterday morning giving my thoughts about the agenda for the discussions during the day. I continue to be in regular touch with the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary. And I am delighted that we've both managed to put in place decent electoral arrangements for Hong Kong and that we've managed in the last few months to get agreements on the airport, on the Court of Final Appeal, on the civil service transition. I hope now that we've got a smooth transition for the civil service and for the Judiciary and it would be very good too if we could complete that and get a smooth transition for the legislature as well. It's not remotely threatening to anybody. As you know, Hong Kong is a moderate and mature community and the sooner that's generally recognised the better.

End/Wednesday, October 4, 1995

Transcript of the CS's media session

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Following is the transcript of the media session by the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, at Central Government Offices lobby today (Wednesday):

CS: I very much welcome the agreement with the Chinese on how to resolve this issue of facilitating better communication and dialogue between civil servants and their Chinese counterparts. I believe that this agreement reflects the Chinese' wish to take into account previous concerns expressed by the civil servants. I believe this way of proceeding, ie through informal get-togethers, would be the best possible avenue in terms of facilitating getting to know each other and facilitating better communication between civil servants and their Chinese counterparts. Of course, we will now discuss the detailed arrangements with the Chinese side and I very much hope that we'll be possible to have the first of this sort of get-together in a few weeks' time.

Question: Do you think that this kind of gatherings would undermine the sovereignty ..

CS: Not at all. I think not only does it not undermine the credibility of the government, on the contrary, it will facilitate, improve channels of communication between officials on both sides in a relaxed climate in Hong Kong. I think my civil service colleagues would feel that in that sort of atmosphere, they can be rather more relaxed about how they conduct this dialogue with their Chinese counterparts. I am sure all these improved channels of communication will assist each other to better understand their work. We would be hoping to discuss, as I said earlier, with the Chinese detailed arrangements with a view to starting the first of these get-togethers as quickly as possible.

Question: How frequent is the?

CS: I think it's difficult to say at this stage. It depends on how we can fit in the timings and there will be timings to take into account not only on the part of our own colleagues but also on the part of the Chinese officials who will be attending these get-togethers.

Question: Will the sessions all be conducted in Hong Kong?

CS: Yes, we would hope to conduct most of these in Hong Kong, but of course this doesn't replace the channel of communication that's also available when policy secretaries or other senior officials go for visits to China. We would very much hope as we already do so now that they can also, when they visit, call on officials in the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office.

End/Wednesday, October 4, 1995

Study on future land use of Tsing Yi

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The Director of Planning, Dr Peter Pun, has recently signed a consultancy agreement with Mouchel Asia Limited to carry out a study on the future use of Tsing Yi Town Lot 46 Remaining Portion (RP) and possible foreshore reclamation.

"The objective of the study is to investigate the feasibility of possible reclamation along the waterfront of Tsing Yi Town Lot 46 RP," a spokesman for the Planning Department said today (Wednesday).

"It will formulate two alternative land use schemes for the area in order to facilitate the future planning of the area," he said.

Tsing Yi Town Lot 46 RP, with an area of about 31.6 hectares, is at present occupied by an electricity generation plant and an oil depot, the lease of which will expire in June 1997.

"This area, with a marine frontage of about 900 metres, can offer a valuable site for mid-stream operations. The Metroplan Selected Strategy has also identified this area as having the potential for further reclamation to provide land for port-related uses," the spokesman added.

The study is expected to be completed in six months.

End/Wednesday, October 4, 1995

Proposed ways to improve industrial safety well received

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The Education and Manpower Branch has received more than 170 individual and joint submissions following a public consultation exercise on the review of industrial safety in Hong Kong.

The submissions were from employer/employee organisations, professional bodies, academic institutions, companies, government departments, district boards, and members of the public.

"I am pleased to note that there are widespread support for the key recommendations in the Consultation Paper on the Review of Industrial Safety in Hong Kong," the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, said today (Wednesday).

"The submissions offered very useful comments on the consultation paper and many of them contained substantial and detailed proposals on ways to improve Hong Kong's industrial safety standards," he said.

Mr Wong noted that the submissions mainly commented on the need to enhance enforcement in parallel with implementing the self-regulatory safety management system and the future roles of the Occupational Safety and Health Council.

"The submissions also expressed concerns over occupational health in Hong Kong; extension of workplace safety legislation to the non-industrial sector; and safety training for the workers," he added.

"Our next step is to analyse in detail all the submissions.

"Wherever appropriate and in consultation with government policy branches and departments concerned, we will incorporate the relevant suggestions into the original recommendations in the consultation paper," Mr Wong said.

He pointed out that the Administration would finalise its new policies on industrial safety in about two months' time.

"We will then start drafting the necessary legislation. It is our plan to introduce the draft bills into the Legislative Council within the 1995-96 session," he said.

The Consultation Paper on the Review of Industrial Safety in Hong Kong was published in mid-July for public consultation which ended at the end of last month.

Key recommendations of the consultation paper include the adoption of a self-regulatory safety management system; enhancing the enforcement action and powers of the Labour Department and stepping up safety training and education in Hong Kong in order to improve the local industrial safety standards.

During the consultation period, officials from the Education and Manpower Branch and Labour Department had attended a series of meetings and seminars with trade unions, trade and industrial organisations, advisory committees and district boards to exchange views on the issue.

End/Wednesday, October 4, 1995

Contract to rebuild Tai Tam Road awarded

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The Highways Department today (Wednesday) awarded the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Tai Tam Road contract to Shui On Civil Contractors Limited.

A spokesman for the department said the \$69 million contract comprised mainly pavement rehabilitation works and associated drainage improvement works along Tai Tam Road from Stanley Village Road to Chai Wan Road. It also includes watermain laying works between Stanley Village Road and Red Hill Road junctions.

Works will start soon for completion in mid-1997.

"On completion of the works, a durable road with good riding quality will be provided for the traffic," the spokesman said.

The works have been designed and construction will be supervised by Halcrow Asia Partnership Limited for Hong Kong Region of Highways Department.

End/Wednesday, October 4, 1995

Hong Kong-Osaka yacht race to be held in 1997

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Members of the race committee of the Sail Osaka 97 will be in Hong Kong tomorrow (Thursday) for a discussion with the Marine Department over the arrangements of the boat race.

The race, one of the major yachting events in Asia in recent years, will be held in March 1997.

So far more than 11 countries including Chile, Japan, Russia, Argentina, Portugal, Holland and Colombia will take part in the regatta which will start from Hong Kong and finish at Osaka in Japan.

The event is part of the activities organised by the Port of Osaka to celebrate its centenary.

End/Wednesday, October 4, 1995

Penumbral eclipse of the moon on October 8 and 9

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There will be a penumbral eclipse of the moon from the evening of October 8 to the early morning of October 9.

Details of the penumbral eclipse are as follows:

	<u>Hong Kong Time</u>	<u>Azimuth Direction</u>	<u>Elevation (degrees)</u>
moonrise	1749 (October 8)	East	0
moon enters penumbra	2158	East-southeast	55
middle of eclipse	0004 (October 9)	South	75
moon leaves penumbra	0210	West-southwest	58
moonset	0635	West	0

Penumbral eclipse occurs when the moon passes through the penumbra (partial shadow) of the earth's shadow without entering the umbra (total shadow). During the event, only the apparent brightness of the moon will become dimmer, but the limb of the moon will not be obscured by the earth's shadow.

The next lunar eclipse observable in Hong Kong will not occur until April 4 next year.

End/Wednesday, October 4, 1995

Two lots of land to let

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The Lands Department is inviting tenders for the short-term tenancy of two pieces of government land in the New Territories.

The first lot, located in Area 27D, Choi Yuen Road, Sheung Shui, has an area of 6,070 square metres for use as a fee-paying public car park.

The tenancy is for two years, renewable quarterly.

The second lot is located at Hoi Wah Road, Area 16, Tuen Mun. It has an area of 7,450 square metres and is also for use as a fee-paying public car park. The tenancy is for one year, renewable monthly.

Closing date for submission of both tenders is noon on October 20.

Tender form, tender notice and conditions may be obtained from the District Lands Office, North; District Lands Office, Tuen Mun; the Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road; and the Kowloon District Lands Offices, 10th floor, Yau Ma Tei Car Park Building, 250 Shanghai Street, Kowloon.

Tender plans can also be inspected at these offices.

End/Wednesday, October 4, 1995

Kowloon City District Office to be moved

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The Kowloon City District Office will be moved to a new location on the 17th floor of One Harbourfront at 18-22 Tak Fung Street, Hung Hom, next Monday (October 9). Its Public Enquiry Service Centre (PESC) and the District Board (DB) Secretariat will also be relocated to the same premises.

Telephone numbers of the District Office will also be changed. The new number for PESC is 2621 3401 and for the DB Secretariat is 2621 3407.

The District Office will continue to provide services for the public until noon this Saturday (October 7) at its present address at Kau Pui Lung Road, To Kwa Wan.

End/Wednesday, October 4, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

Tender date	4 Oct 1995	4 Oct 1995
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q540	Y594
Amount applied	HK\$5,400 MN	HK\$2,020 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$1,500 MN	HK\$500 MN
Average yield accepted	5.67 PCT	5.70 PCT
Highest yield accepted	5.69 PCT	5.71 PCT
Pro rata ratio	About 3 PCT	About 65 PCT
Average tender yield	5.69 PCT	5.72 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning 9 Oct, 1995

Tender date	10 Oct 1995	10 Oct 1995
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q541	H575
Issue date	11 Oct 1995	11 Oct 1995
Maturity date	10 Jan 1996	10 APR 1996
Tenor	91 days	182 days
Amount on offer	HK\$1,500+300 MN	HK\$800+160 MN

End/Wednesday, October 4, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	3,206	0930	-33
Closing balance in the account	2,637	1000	-33
Change attributable to :		1100	-33
Money market activity	-33	1200	-33
LAF today	-536	1500	-33
		1600	-33

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.2 *+0.2* 4.10.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.65	2 years	2708	6.06	100.37	5.93
1 month	5.68	3 years	3807	6.16	100.07	6.22
3 months	5.69	5 years	5009	6.95	100.41	6.97
6 months	5.70	5 years	M501	7.90	102.35	7.42
12 months	5.71					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$16,648 million

Closed October 4, 1995

End/Wednesday, October 4, 1995