



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Government welcomes UN Committee report on human rights

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The Government today (Friday) welcomes the concluding observations made by the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) after its hearing in Geneva last month on the civil and political rights situation in Hong Kong.

The Committee's concluding observations and recommendations were published in Geneva today following its examination of the British Government's report on Hong Kong under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in Geneva on October 19 and 20.

A Government spokesman welcomed the Committee's appreciation to the UK Delegation, which included five officials from the Hong Kong Government, for "the high quality of the report, abundance of additional information and detailed and frank answers provided in response to the oral and written questions posed and comments made by the Committee during its consideration of the report".

The spokesman pointed out that it was particularly significant for the Human Rights Committee to issue a statement to facilitate the continuing discharge of reporting obligations for Hong Kong after 1997.

The Committee took the view that, as a matter of international law, human rights treaties devolve with territory, and that States continue to be bound by the obligations under the ICCPR entered by the predecessor State. Once the people living in a territory find themselves under the protection of the ICCPR, such protection cannot be denied to them by virtue of the mere dismemberment of that territory or its coming within the jurisdiction of another State or more than one State.

The Committee also referred to the Joint Declaration whereby the parties have agreed that all the provisions of the ICCPR as applied in Hong Kong shall remain in force after July 1, 1997, which provisions include reporting procedures under article 40. As the reporting requirements will continue to apply, the Human Rights Committee considers itself competent to receive and review reports that must be submitted in relation to Hong Kong.

The Committee accordingly concluded that it is ready to give effect to the intention of the parties to the Joint Declaration and to cooperate fully with them to work out the necessary modalities.

The spokesman explained that this constituted an extremely important and helpful statement of international law principles and expressed the hope that the two sovereign states concerned would cooperate with the Human Rights Committee to ensure that reporting for Hong Kong would continue after July 1997.

He also said the Committee's request for a special report in 1996 would be met.

In addition, the spokesman welcomed the Committee's recognition for the significant number of measures that the Government had taken in recent years to enhance the protection of human rights in Hong Kong.

The following are the positive aspects mentioned by the Committee in its concluding observations released today:

- \* The Committee welcomes the initiatives taken by the Government with a view to ensuring the full implementation of the Covenant in Hong Kong, in future as well as at present. In that regard, the Sino-British Joint Declaration on the question of Hong Kong appears to provide a sound legal basis for the continued protection of the rights as specified in the Covenant.
- \* The Committee welcomes the enactment of the Bill of Rights Ordinance in June 1991.
- \* The Committee takes note with appreciation of the various ordinances that have been reviewed as to their conformity with the Bill of Rights and amended accordingly, and also appreciates the continuing process of reviewing and updating of relevant legislative provisions in that regard.
- \* The Committee welcomes efforts being made by the authorities to disseminate information on human rights to members of the judiciary, civil servants, teachers and the public in general, including school-age children.
- \* The Committee further welcomes the recent enactment of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance and the Disability Discrimination Ordinance, the aims of which include the elimination of discrimination against women and disabled persons. It welcomes the oral information provided by the authorities that an Equal Opportunities Commission will be established in the first quarter of 1996 with power to recommend draft laws and draft amendments to these ordinances.

- \* The Committee welcomes the enactment of the Crimes (Torture) Ordinance, which gives domestic effect to part of article 7 of the ICCPR.

The Committee has also raised a number of issues and made some recommendations concerning the electoral system, a Human Rights Commission, the living conditions of Vietnamese migrants, the investigation of complaints against the Police, the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, and the Chinese version of charge sheets and court documents.

The spokesman said the Government would consider all the points made by the Committee carefully.

In fact, he said the Government had already taken steps to address some of the issues of concern raised.

For example, he said, preparing bilingual charge sheets was now a standard practice in all magistrates' courts and the District Court and the practice would be extended to the High Court in December.

On investigation into complaints against the Police, the spokesman said as the Secretary for Security told the Legislative Council yesterday (Thursday), the Security Branch was discussing with the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) arrangements to implement, on a trial basis, the Lay Observers Scheme, under which investigations by the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) would be observed by upright citizens, and arrangements to second a suitable directorate-grade Administrative Officer to the IPCC to enable it to observe and review more closely CAPO procedures.

"So it is a step in the right direction," the spokesman noted.

As regards the screening of Vietnamese detainees, the spokesman said the refugee status of these people was already expeditiously determined by the Immigration authorities with an appeal to an independent Refugees Status Review Board and a further right of Judicial Review to the High Court with legal aid being provided.

On the Committee's concern about legal aid for Bill of Rights cases against the Government and public officers, the spokesman said the Director of Legal Aid's discretion to waive the means test in criminal cases had recently been extended to Bill of Rights civil cases.

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### HK people commit themselves to voluntary services

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Hong Kong people are always prepared to contribute to voluntary services, the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, said.

Speaking at the Civil Aid Services Annual Dinner this (Friday) evening, the Governor said the strong volunteer spirit in Hong Kong reflected how free, vigorous and decent the city was.

Mr Patten praised members of the Civil Aid Services for devoting their skills and professionalism to the work of mountain rescue, countryside fire protection, support for the full time emergency services and many other activities.

He also thanked the volunteers for their contribution and support in so many civic services such as the recent elections.

Also speaking at the Annual Dinner, the Commissioner of Civil Aid Services, Mr Norman Leung, expressed his gratitude to other volunteer groups, Government Policy Branches, Government Departments and non-government organisations for their co-operation and assistance to the Services.

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### Employers urged to abandon discriminatory policy on age

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The Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, today (Friday) made a strong appeal to employers to abandon the practice of stipulating an age requirement when recruiting staff.

Addressing the 12th Anniversary Annual Ball of the Retail Management Association, Mr Wong said while he was very pleased to note that the majority of employers did not specify age requirements in job advertisements, more needs to be done, especially in sales and service sectors where workers' age requirement was most commonly stipulated.

He pointed out that in a survey carried out by the Labour Department last month, of more than 25,000 job advertisements surveyed, over 86 per cent of them had no age requirements, representing a three per cent improvement over a similar survey conducted in July this year.

Mr Wong said the fact that some employers insisted on employing only the relatively young had led to a perception within the community that there was age discrimination in the area of employment, and that it was adversely affecting the employment opportunities of the middle-aged, particularly women in their 40s and 50s.

To encourage fair and equitable recruitment practice, Mr Wong said he would be writing personally to those organisations which he understood maintained an age discrimination policy and inviting them to abandon such a practice.

This is in addition to organising seminars and speaking engagements and encouraging employers' associations to do their part in this regard.

Recognising the Retail Management Association's continued efforts to promote non-discriminatory recruitment practices among employers in the retail industry, Mr Wong said the appropriate factors that needed to be considered in the recruitment process should only include genuine job qualifications, for instance, educational attainment, previous work experience, or specific job-related skills.

He took the opportunity to congratulate a retail clothing group which, after some initial reluctance, is now successfully employing salesladies aged 30 and above who have undergone a retraining course specifically designed by the Employees Retraining Board for that company.

Outlining what the Government had done in recent years to eliminate discrimination in a wide range of areas, Mr Wong said his branch had set up a Working Group on Age Discrimination to ascertain the extent to which age discrimination in employment was a problem in Hong Kong, and consider what government measures, if any, should be adopted to tackle the problem of age discrimination in employment.

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Better employment opportunities for disabled persons

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The Working Party on Training and Employment for People with Disabilities has recommended to enhance the employment opportunities of disabled persons, in particular to arrange more capable sheltered workers to move on to supported or open employment.

This is stated by the Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan, when he officiated at the opening ceremony of the Wai Ji Christian Service Headquarters in Tai Hang Tung Estate this (Friday) afternoon.

Mr Strachan said another recommendation is to set up, on an experimental basis, a marketing and resources unit to co-ordinate marketing issues for sheltered workshops.

"Sheltered workshops are one of the earliest rehabilitation services for persons with a disability. They provide sheltered employment for disabled persons who are unable to secure a job in the open market.

"Being able to go to work has far reaching implications on an individual, particularly for the disabled. Going some place, learning a skill, meeting people and earning income are all important to the overall well being of the sheltered workers," he said.

Pointing out that Hong Kong's economy had now changed from manufacturing industries to service industries because many factories had been relocated to mainland China to take advantage of the cheap land and labour there, Mr Strachan said this fact also affected the job orders of the sheltered workshops.

"Problems of restructuring sheltered workshops and increasing the productivity of sheltered workers have therefore become all the more urgent.

"In order to look into these problems in detail with a view to improving disabled persons' training and employment prospects, a working party was set up by me in 1994," he said, adding that the working party had completed its task and published its report in July.

Noting that the report had been widely distributed to concerned parties for consultation, Mr Strachan urged interested parties to give their comments which would be collated for the endorsement by the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee over the next few months.

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BDTCs born between 77 and 81 must apply for BN(O) passport

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The final date for Hong Kong British Dependent Territories citizens (BDTCs) born between 1977 and 1981 to apply for British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) passports is March 30, 1996, a Government spokesman reminded the public today (Friday).

Hong Kong BDTCs (such as persons born, naturalised or registered in Hong Kong) must obtain a BN(O) passport if they wish to continue to travel on British passports beyond 1997. As specified in the Second Schedule to the Hong Kong (British Nationality) Order 1986, applications for BN(O) passports must be submitted on or before the final dates relevant to their age groups.

Eligible applicants born between 1977 and 1981 must submit their applications on or before March 30, 1996. To avoid last minute rush, they are advised to apply early.

Hong Kong BDTCs living, working or studying abroad, are also required to observe the cut-off dates if they want to apply for a BN(O) passport. However, they are not required to return to Hong Kong for their applications. They should submit their applications to the nearest British passport issuing office either by post or in person. The required overseas application forms can be obtained at those offices or the Hong Kong Immigration Department.

Persons who do not comply with the relevant cut-off dates will not be able to travel on British passports beyond 1997. An application made after the final date will only be accepted if the applicant can show that there are special circumstances which justify his late application.

A BN(O) Late Registration Appeals Advisory Committee has been established to advise the Governor on those late applications which have been rejected by the Immigration Department.

The spokesman emphasised that those who already had a BN(O) passport, either the conventional hard-cover type or the burgundy red machine readable type, need not apply again.

To save time in queuing up at Immigration Offices, eligible applicants should send in their applications by post or make use of the drop-in box service. Drop-in boxes are installed at the Immigration Headquarters and branch offices throughout the territory.

Only persons who are not holding Permanent Identity Cards (including children under the age of 11), who have lost their previous passports, or who need the passport for urgent travel should apply in person.

For children under 16 years of age, their applications must be made by their parents or legal guardians.

For more information, members of the public may telephone 2824 1177 (English) or 2824 1717 (Chinese).

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#### Long and Meritorious Service Certificates presentation

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The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, today (Friday) presented the Long and Meritorious Service Certificate to the Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, in recognition of his more than 28 years of service in the Government.

The Chief Secretary also presented certificates and commemorative gold pins to five veteran members of the Administrative Service who have served for 30 years or more.

They are the former Secretary for Security, Mr Alistair Asprey; the Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan; the Director of Buildings, Mrs Helen Yu; the Secretary of the Port Development Board, Mr Tony Clark; and the Deputy Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Kevin Mak.

Mr Asprey, who is now on his pre-retirement leave, returned to Hong Kong for this special event.

Mrs Chan also presented 20-year certificates to 26 senior officers who have served the Government between 20 to 30 years. The group includes the Secretary for Financial Services, Mr Rafael Hui; the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong; and the Director of Education, Mr Lam Woon-kwong.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Secretary of the Civil Service, Mr Michael Sze, said the award pointed to an officer's commitment to and perseverance with a career in the Administrative Service which offered new challenges each day.

"This is something you should be proud of. I urge you to put the certificates in a conspicuous place and not to worry about them becoming a hint of your age," Mr Sze added on a lighter note.

Another 26 officers who are recipients of the 20-year and 30-year certificates were unable to attend today's ceremony.

At the same reception, the Chairman of the Administrative Service Association, Mr Chau Tak-hay, welcomed 30 newly-appointed Administrative Officers and bade farewell to the former Postmaster General, Mr Mike Pagliari, who retired recently after 28 years of service in the civil service.

Recipients present at the presentation ceremony today are:

30-Year Certificates and Gold Pins  
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Mr Alistair Asprey  
Mrs Helen Yu  
Mr Kevin Mak

Mr Ian Strachan  
Mr Tony Clark

20-Year Certificates

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Mr Donald Tsang  
Mr Joseph Wong  
Mr Nigel Shipman  
Mr Stephen Ip  
Mr Nigel French  
Mr Gordon Jones  
Mr Leo Kwan  
Mr Alan Lai  
Mr Benjamin Tang  
Ms Sandra Lee  
Mr Anthony Reynalds  
Ms Maria Kwan  
Miss Yvonne Choi  
Mr Robert Chan

Mr Rafael Hui  
Mr Lam Woon-kwong  
Mr Robert Footman  
Mr Canice Mak  
Mrs Regina Ip  
Mrs Fanny Law  
Mr Keith Kwok  
Mr Leung Pak-chung  
Mr Lee Lap-sun  
Mr Michael Rowse  
Mr Patrick Lau  
Mr Peter Cheung  
Mrs Agnes Allcock

Recipients not present at the presentation ceremony are:

30-Year Certificates and Gold Pins

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Mr Michael Leung  
Mr Anthony Bennett

Mr David Weeks  
Mr Ng Hon-wah

20-Year Certificates

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Sir David Ford  
Mr Peter Lai  
Mr John Telford  
Mr Clinton Leeks  
Mr Martin White  
Mr John Burrett  
Mr Thomas Tso  
Mrs Brenda Fung  
Mr William Hui  
Ms Miranda Chiu  
Mr Edward Brown

Mr Michael Suen  
Miss Denise Yue  
Mrs Alice Lai  
Mr Leung Chin-man  
Mr Philip Chok  
Mr Thomas Chan  
Mr Michael Lee  
Mr Derek Gould  
Mr Wong Hon-ho  
Miss Maureen To  
Mrs Teresa Wong

Town Planning (Amendment) Bill gazetted

\* \* \* \* \*

The Government today (Friday) published in the Government gazette the Town Planning (Amendment) Bill 1995.

Outlining the main features of the bill, a spokesman for the Planning Department said it would enable the Town Planning Board (TPB) to appoint committees among its members to hear objections to draft plans.

"Each committee will comprise at least five members from the Board and the majority shall be members who are not public officers," he said.

The spokesman explained that under the existing Town Planning Ordinance, TPB will give preliminary consideration to an objection to a draft plan in the absence of the objector.

If the objector refuses to withdraw the objection after being notified of the Board's view, he will have the right to attend a hearing before TPB.

"As a result of an extension of the statutory planning function to cover the rural New Territories, the number of objections to draft plans, planning applications, reviews and planning appeals had increased rapidly in recent years.

"There is a backlog of more than 1,000 objections and about 30 appeals pending hearing by the TPB and the Town Planning Appeal Board (TPAB).

"It is expected that the hearing of objections can be expedited when these committees are in operation," he said.

Another provision of the Amendment Bill is to enable the Governor to appoint more than one Deputy Chairman of the TPAB panel.

"This will allow more Appeal Board hearings to be held concurrently and thus expedite the hearing of the outstanding planning appeals," he added.

The spokesman said two technical amendments would also be introduced.

"The first amendment is to put it beyond doubt that a judge may be appointed to the TPAB panel while the second one clarifies the nature of a continuing offence of not complying with the requirement of the notices in relation to unauthorised development served by the Planning Authority under section 23 of the Town Planning Ordinance.

"In all, the provisions in this Amendment Bill will improve the efficiency in the operation of the TPB and the TPAB.

"Action is now in hand to prepare another amendment bill to make the planning system more open and accountable to the public.

"Amendments will include provisions to streamline procedures and to adopt a planning certificate system," the spokesman said.

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#### Changes to bring inheritance laws more up to date

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A number of important changes recently made to the laws of inheritance have come into force today ( Friday).

The commencement notices of the Wills (Amendment) Ordinance 1995, the Intestates' Estates (Amendment) Ordinance 1995 and the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Ordinance are gazetted today.

A spokesman for the Home Affairs Branch (HAB) said the ordinances, which were enacted in July, aimed to bring the laws on inheritance up to date and to remove legal anomalies that have emerged over the years.

He also said HAB had published a bilingual leaflet to introduce to the public the main contents of the three ordinances.

The Wills Ordinance sets out the legal rules governing wills and several major changes are explained in the leaflet.

One of the key changes is that a will of a Chinese person written in Chinese after the amendments take effect no longer enjoys the previous exemption from the statutory rules on making wills.

The Intestates' Estates Ordinance provides for the distribution of the estate of a person who dies without making a will or whose will deals with only part of his or her estate.

The main effect of the amendments is to improve the position of the surviving spouse, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Ordinance has replaced the Deceased's Family Maintenance Ordinance.

This ordinance aims to help those persons who have not been fairly provided for under a will or the law of intestacy. It also provides for a broader scope of persons to apply to the court for financial provision from the estate of the deceased.

Copies of the leaflet on the changes to inheritance laws are now available at the district offices and the marketing office of the Government Information Services on the 17th floor, Siu On Centre, 176 - 192 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai.

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#### Lands Department launches Vision and Mission Statement

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The Lands Department today (Friday) launched a Vision and Mission Statement to promote staff awareness of the department's overall objective of serving the community.

At a launching ceremony, the Director of Lands, Mr Bob Pope, said the department pledged to serve Hong Kong by providing the highest quality of service in the administration of land in the territory.

"Our mission is to administer land, one of Hong Kong valuable assets, to the best of our ability and in the interests of the community.

"We will also try our best to maintain the highest quality of service in the surveying and mapping of land in Hong Kong," he said.

As a first step towards achieving the vision and mission, a series of staff motivation activities was held over the past few months to promote staff awareness of the department's main functions and to foster staff's sense of belonging and unity, Mr Pope said.

"Meanwhile, the department is undergoing comprehensive computerisation which aims at improving its overall efficiency. This will be completed by the middle of next year," he said.

At the launching ceremony today, Mr Pope presented prizes to winners of the departmental Slogans Competition, Tie and Scarf Competition and Photography Competition.

Mr Pope also presented framed Vision and Mission Statements to the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Bowen Leung; the Secretary for Housing, Mr Dominic Wong; the Deputy Secretary for Works, Mr Keith Kwok; the Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Michael Stone; the Director of General Grades, Mr Cletus Lau; and the Assistant Director of Efficiency Unit, Ms Kitty Choi.

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#### Board amends Yuen Long Outline Zoning Plan

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The Town Planning Board today (Friday) announced amendments to the draft Yuen Long Outline Zoning Plan.

The major amendment to the draft plan is to rezone an area, about 4.28 hectares, to the west of Hung Tin from "Industrial" and "Government/Institution/Community" ("GIC") to "Village Type Development" and "Comprehensive Development Area" to resolve industrial/residential interface problems in the area.

Other amendments include the provision of two sites for residential development.

A 2.74-hectare site located to the south of Ma Tin Road near Yuen Long Town Park has been rezoned from "GIC" to "Residential(Group B)".

A 0.42-hectare site at the junction of Ma Tin Road and Yuen Long Tai Yuk Road which is zoned "Other Specified Uses (Public Car Park with Ground Floor Retail Shops)" has been re-annotated to incorporate the residential element.

Technical amendments to the plan include amendments to the schedule of uses for the "Other Specified Uses (Industrial Estate)" zone.

The amendment plan (No. S/YL/2) is available for public inspection until November 24 during normal office hours at :

- \* Planning Department,  
16th floor, Murray Building,  
Garden Road,  
Hong Kong;
- \* Tuen Mun and Yuen Long District Planning Office,  
Level 11, Metroplaza Tower I,  
223 Hing Fong Road,  
Kwai Fong,  
New Territories; and
- \* Yuen Long District Office,  
Yuen Long District Office Building,  
269 Castle Peak Road,  
Yuen Long,  
New Territories.

Any person affected by the amendment plan may submit written objections to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Planning Department, 13th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong before November 24, 1995.

Copies of the draft plan can be brought from the Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building and Kowloon Map Sales Office, ground floor, 382 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

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### Bargains at Correctional Services Autumn Fair

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The Correctional Services Department (CSD) will hold its 43rd Autumn Fair tomorrow (Saturday) at the Stanley football field near Stanley Prison. Admission is free and all are welcome.

It will be the last CSD Autumn Fair to be held at this venue.

"This fair is especially memorable because the Stanley football field will soon be converted into a medium security prison," a spokesman for CSD said. A variety of products including arts and handicraft items, stuffed toys, rattan and wooden furniture will be on sale at some 30 stalls.

The products are made by inmates at their leisure time during their detention in various penal institutions managed by the department.

Apart from making bargained purchases, visitors can also enjoy a rich programme of entertainment performed by different organisations, including the Fringe Mime and Movement Laboratory, Hong Kong Parachute Club, Hong Kong Wushu Union, SKH Bishop Mok Sau Tseng Secondary School, Wai Yee Dance Group, CSD's Dog Unit, Cape Collinson Band and Tai Lam Girl's Pipers and Marching Team.

There will also be snack stalls and game stalls for children.

The fair will be held from 11 am to 5 pm. Mrs Serena Mong, accompanied by the Commissioner of Correctional Services, Mr Raymond Lai Ming-kee, will be the guest of honour to officiate at the opening ceremony.

As parking space are limited, visitors are advised to travel by public transport. They can take Bus No 6, or No 260 (from Central), No 73 (From Wah Fu Estate), No 63 (From North Point) or No 14 (From Sai Wan Ho).

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Land Registry to improve services

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The Land Registry is to further improve its services to the public by introducing an advanced computer technology for storage and retrieval of land records.

Work is in the pipe-line to set up a "document imaging system" that will enable the Land Registry to scan memorials or other registered instruments and convert them into electronic images for storage in electronic storage media, such as optical disks.

The new system, which is expected to be introduced by early next year, will lead to faster retrieval of land records and a substantial reduction in storage space.

It is envisaged that this system subsequently may be linked up with the existing Direct Access Service of the Land Registry.

In parallel, the Land Registry is microfilming old register cards in the urban area that will lead to the disposal of these old register cards.

To further streamline its services, the Land Registry also plans to stop accepting deposit of any deeds or conveyances for safe custody because safe deposit services are widely available from banks and only few deeds have been deposited in the Land Registry.

However, the Land Registrar will continue to keep safe custody of deeds and conveyances already deposited with him.

The above proposed changes require legislative amendments contained in the Land Registration (Amendment) Bill 1995 and the Land Registration (Amendment) Regulation 1995 gazetted today (Friday).

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### Unlicensed guesthouse operator fined

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A guesthouse operator was fined \$12,000 in South Kowloon Magistracy today (Friday) after pleading guilty to operating an unlicensed guesthouse in Tsim Sha Tsui.

The court heard that officers of the Home Affairs Department's Office of the Licensing Authority had conducted a joint operation with the police against illegal guesthouses in Tsim Sha Tsui on May 3.

During the operation, undercover officers found a premises at the sixth floor, Chung King Mansions, 36-44 Nathan Road, was being operated as a guesthouse without a licence.

The operator of the guesthouse was subsequently charged with contravening Section 5 of the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance.

A spokesman for the department said unlicensed guesthouses would not be tolerated and enforcement action would continue to be taken to eliminate such premises.

He said efforts would be stepped up to ensure all guesthouses met the required building and fire safety standards and were properly licensed.

He appealed to members of the public to help in the effort to crack down on unlicensed guesthouses by reporting them to the Office of the Licensing Authority on 2881 7034.

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**Special postmark to mark centenary congress**

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The acting Postmaster General, Miss Nancy Law, announced today (Friday) that a special postmark will be introduced to commemorate the Roentgen Centenary Congress to be held in Hong Kong between November 8 and 12.

The Roentgen Centenary Congress was organised by the College of Radiology to celebrate the 100 years of discovery of X-ray.

While the Post Office will not issue any philatelic item on this occasion, a special postmark will be made available for hand-back service at November 8 for any privately-made covers bearing an indication of the event at the following seven philatelic offices:

Beaconsfield House Post office  
General Post Office  
Granville Road Post Office  
Peak Post Office  
Sha Tin General Post Office  
Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office  
Tsuen Wan Post Office

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**Tenders invited for construction of service reservoir**

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The Water Supplies Department is inviting tenders for the construction of a fresh water service reservoir in Lung Kwu Sheung Tan, Tuen Mun.

The contract includes site formation work, construction of a service reservoir with a capacity of 13,500 cubic metres and the laying of associated water mains and drainage pipes.

It is part of a programme which aims at improving fresh and salt water supply to the western areas of Tuen Mun.

Works are expected to start in February next year for completion in two years.

The above work forms part of a public works programme which aims at improving fresh and salt water supply to the western areas of Tuen Mun.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Water Supplies Department, 44th floor, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Tender offers will close at noon on December 1.

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#### Two lots of land up for auction

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Two lots of Government land on Hong Kong Island and the New Territories respectively will be offered for sale at a public auction on November 27 (Monday), it is announced in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

The auction will start at 2.30 pm in the Concert Hall of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui.

The first lot, located in 26 Mount Kellett Road, The Peak, has an area of 1,936.1 square metres for private residential use.

The developer has to complete a gross floor area of not less than 746 square metres on or before December 31, 1998.

Located in Wo Tik Street, Tsuen Wan, the second lot has an area of 572 square metres for non-industrial use, excluding godown and hotel.

The developer has to complete a gross floor area of not less than 2,204 square metres on or before December 31, 1998.

Full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained from the Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road; and the District Lands Offices/Kowloon, Yau Ma Tei Car Park Building, 10th floor, 250 Shanghai Street, Kowloon.

Conditions of sale will also be available at the District Lands Offices of Sha Tin, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Tsuen Wan, Sai Kung, Kwai Tsing, Tai Po, North and Islands.

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Moneymarket service launches new functions

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The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announced that the Central Moneymarkets Unit (CMU) Service, the central custodian and clearing system for debt securities would shortly be introducing two new functions. The new functions are delivery vs payment (DvP) for private sector debt instruments and the clearing of debt securities denominated in foreign currencies.

The announcement was made by the Chief Executive of HKMA, Mr Joseph Yam, in his presentation at the Seminar on Global Payment Systems today (Friday).

He said: "DvP facility would help reduce settlement risk in the trading of securities lodged and cleared with the CMU,"

He further commented: "So far the CMU only accepts Hong Kong dollar denominated debt securities because the CMU Service is designed and set up to promote the Hong Kong dollar debt market.

"It is a logical step for CMU Service to widen its coverage to debt securities denominated in foreign currency."

At present, the CMU Service only offers Free of Payment (FoP) facility in securities transfer without handling cash settlement. By offering the DvP facility, the settlement risk can be eliminated when delivery of securities only take place when there are good funds available to settle the transaction.

The DvP facility will be operative on December 18.

A spokesman from HKMA said: "As part of our efforts to improve the robustness of our debt securities clearing system and the interbank payment system, we will be able to offer DvP function on a real time basis when we go live on the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) in December 1996.

"The end-of-day DvP facility will be part of the interim measures to reduce settlement risk in debt securities transaction prior to December 1996."

To meet international standards and minimise settlement risks, Hong Kong is moving towards a Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) from the existing next day settlement system. The implementation has made good progress so far according to the project schedule agreed by the Committee on Payment System.

When RTGS is fully implemented by the end of 1996, it will be among the most advanced and robust payment systems in the world.

The second enhancement for the CMU Service to meet the demand of the market is to cover the foreign currency instruments.

The move does not involve significant procedural or system changes. The CMU will be accepting foreign currency debt securities for clearing starting from January 15, 1996.

CMU was originally set up in 1990 to provide clearing facility for Exchange Fund Bills and later Notes.

In January last year, CMU extended its services to provide a central custodian and clearing facility for private sector debt securities denominated in Hong Kong dollar.

The service has been very favourably received by the capital market. As at September this year, 233 debt issues with a total nominal value of HK\$62 billion have been lodged with CMU, representing 84 per cent of all Hong Kong dollar debt securities issued during the period.

End/Friday, November 3, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

\*\*\*\*\*

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
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Opening balance in the account	1,261	0930	+1311
Closing balance in the account	2,372	1000	+1311
Change attributable to :		1100	+1316
Money market activity	+1,311	1200	+1316
LAF today	-200	1500	+1316
		1600	+1311

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.5 \*+0.1\* 03.11.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.22	2 years	2708	6.06	100.82	5.63
1 month	5.33	3 years	3810	6.15	100.65	6.00
3 months	5.47	5 years	5009	6.95	101.90	6.59
6 months	5.51	5 years	M501	7.90	103.75	7.04
12 months	5.53					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$10,702 million

Closed November 3, 1995

End/Friday, November 3, 1995