



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Friday, January 19, 1996

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Transcript of the Governor's media session

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Following is the transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, after visiting the Lantau Fixed Crossing construction site this (Friday) afternoon:

Governor: Fantastic bridge. I first came here in 1992 and stood on the hillside over there. There was absolutely nothing here except tapes on the ground indicating where the bridge was going to go. And I was last actually here during the construction 16 months ago. I think it is a remarkable engineering achievement. They are ahead of time. They will be one of the great pieces of architectural engineering in the world and a great bridge for Hong Kong and a great symbol for Hong Kong. Any questions?

Question: (on the possibility of meeting Zhou Nan)

Governor: I don't think there is any plan for that.

Question: (on Jardines)

Governor: But they have never left Hong Kong.

Question: (follow-up on Jardines)

Governor: That is a commercial matter which I wouldn't comment on. But they are one of the biggest firms in our local economy. They employ a lot of Hong Kong people. And I'm sure they'll continue to do so.

Question: (follow-up on Jardines)

Governor: We have a fair economy, fair to everyone. Nobody has got any privileges.

Question: (inaudible)

Governor: We've talked once again about Hong Kong and some of the challenges that Hong Kong faces. She is, as you know, totally committed to seeing the Joint Declaration implemented faithfully before and after 1997. I know that she is looking forward to being here on the 30th of June 1997 and I know that she'll look forward to returning after that as well. I always keep her extremely well briefed on what's happening in Hong Kong and I think she agrees completely with Foreign Secretary and me that it's in Hong Kong's interests and China's interests that there should be the maximum dialogue between officials and that there should also be a dialogue with all the political elements here in Hong Kong. That's the way one conducts affairs in a rational and civilised and constructive way.

Question: (inaudible)

Governor: Absolutely. She'll be one of the first guests to receive an invitation and I'm sure that she'll want to be here along with all those others who have contributed to Hong Kong's success and contributed to the agreements made about Hong Kong's future. But the most important guests on the 30th of June 1997 will be the people of Hong Kong and I hope that all of the people of Hong Kong will be involved in the celebrations and that includes those who are elected by the people of Hong Kong to represent them in the Legislative Council.

Question: (inaudible)

Governor: She had a question at Tsing Yi Technical College about the Conservative Party and the challenges it faces in the United Kingdom. She pointed out what taxes were under the last Labour Government and how much she cut them, which I think gave some indication of her views on socialism. But that's not something in which I'm able to engage these days.

Question: (on Jardines)

Governor: I don't know. That's a question which he would have to answer. As I said, Jardines are here; they haven't gone away. They have listed in Singapore and that is a commercial decision which you have to leave to them. Of course, there are a lot of companies in Hong Kong, a lot of local companies which have chosen in the last few years to domicile legally elsewhere including some of them in other British dependent territories. I hope that all of them will continue to play a part in Hong Kong's economy because we are one of the most successful, open, free economies in the world and I want to see things stay that way and one way in which we can ensure that things stay that way is by giving people in Hong Kong and business in Hong Kong the reassurance that people want about the fairness of our economic arrangements and about the decency and integrity of the rule of law and the protection of human rights.

Question: (inaudible)

Governor: I don't think I can answer that question. It's sometimes challenging enough explaining what I mean. Explaining what Director Lu means is a thing for him to do, rather than for me.

Question: Does that mean that the British Government has not lobbied for Jardines ...?

Governor: No. I tell you who we have lobbied for. We have lobbied for everybody who contributes to Hong Kong's well-being and prosperity.

Question: (inaudible)

Governor: The former Prime Minister talked to the press very frequently, but today she was talking to students of Tsing Yi College, and answering their questions and looking at the bridge and I think concluded that you all have a lot of other things that you want to write about rather than about the former Prime Minister.

Question: Has she talked to her old friend Mr Zhou Nan during this visit?

Governor: I am not sure that Mr Zhou Nan has indicated that any willingness to, but sometimes when people asked to see Mr Zhou Nan or invited him to things, he has some other engagements. He appears to have an exceptionally busy diary.

Question: ... has Lady Thatcher indicated her wishes to meet him?

Governor: No.

Question: Is Lady Thatcher ... has something related to the Conservative Party? For example, like fund raising or getting support from the tycoons here for the coming elections?

Governor: No.

Question: How about she is looking for a new leader, new leadership for the Conservative Party?

Governor: No. She is visiting, staying with the 28th, the last British Governor of Hong Kong who worked for her first in 1975, who was appointed a minister by her in 19 - - my goodness I'm getting old - - 1983 and has worked with her very closely over the years, and has enjoyed an interesting and always friendly and intellectually stimulating relationship with her.

Question: Is this her private visit here?

Governor: Yes, but she is staying at Government House as you would expect. I've now put up, I think, at least three former prime ministers - - Lord Callaghan, Sir Edward Heath and Lady Thatcher. And I hope one day that I'll be able to offer hospitality to a Chinese prime minister too.

Question: Who pays for it then? ... who pays for the government service ... like helicopter?

Governor: Well, we offer her as we offer others hospitality and the opportunity of seeing what's happening in Hong Kong. And I think that the people of Hong Kong recognise that having friends like Lady Thatcher is worth a trip in a helicopter.

Question: Will she come in the near future well before the hand-over?

Governor: I am sure she'll want to come back. She's been coming about once a year.

Question: Do you discuss with her about the imported labour issue where she saw the imported labours outside Government House?

Governor: I am not sure that she did. She might have heard them before they moved onto Happy Valley. Perhaps I can just say a word about that. We are extremely concerned that imported workers should be treated according to Hong Kong's labour laws and that there should be no breach of their employment contracts. Where there is any breaking of our labour laws, we'll take a very stern view of it and deal with it extremely vigorously. And I don't think that there should be any doubt about that and where the trade unions have drawn abuses to our attention, I want to express without reservation my gratitude to them for doing so, because we have to work hand-in-hand with employers and the trade unions in ensuring the best possible working conditions for the people of Hong Kong, whether local people or people who've come in to help us with particular projects. I just add that, I think so far, the ACP projects have created about 17,000 jobs for local people. I hope that the office we've set up to help recruit local people for ACP projects will recruit even more, and that they will all be employed as safely as possible according to our labour laws and that any people from other communities who've come and worked here as imported labours will also enjoy the full protection of the law and will get the terms and conditions which they are promised when they are recruited.

Question: (inaudible)

Governor: No, but Joseph Wong and the employment and manpower department have been discussing the issue with the Legislative Council and the Legislative Council panel in the last few days. And I am sure that they are well aware of the community's concerns and the issues which the community wants to see addressed. Above all, we've been taking more vigorous and vigorous measures to deal with the abuses. Thank you very much indeed.

End

Govt committed to supporting manufacturing industries: FS

* * * * *

The Government is committed to supporting further development of the manufacturing industries in Hong Kong, the Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, said today (Friday).

Mr Tsang made the remark during his visit to Swire Technologies Limited, a leading integrated circuits manufacturer in Hong Kong.

"To assist local industries in moving up the technology ladder, the Industry Department is introducing various measures including the Applied Research and Development Scheme, the Industrial Support Fund Scheme, and the provision of funding support for technological collaboration with China," Mr Tsang said.

"Apart from the software, we will also continue our efforts to provide the hardware infrastructure for manufacturers to upgrade their technological capabilities and to move up the market. Projects under consideration include the fourth industrial estate, the Science Park and the second industrial technology centre," he added.

The future of Hong Kong's manufacturing industries lay in high value-added and technology-based production, Mr Tsang said.

"Our manufacturing industries have in fact grown in economic significance and sophistication through product innovation, quality improvement and increased productivity," he said.

"Hong Kong's electronics industry, in particular, was well positioned for further dynamic growth.

"There is much demand for quality products especially in the consumer electronics and telecommunications equipment fields.

"And our manufacturers have built up a sound technological base in key areas, such as integrated circuits design and packaging."

Mr Tsang, accompanied by the Director-General of Industry, Mrs Regina Ip, viewed the state-of-the-art manufacturing facility run by the Swire Technologies Limited in a "clean room" environment.

End

Complementarity of systems key to continued prosperity

* * * * *

Maintaining the complementarity of the economic systems in China and Hong Kong is a key factor to ensure the continued prosperity of the two places, Secretary for Trade and Industry, Miss Denise Yue, said today (Friday).

Miss Yue was speaking in Shanghai at a conference on "Shanghai-Hong Kong Economic Development and Co-operation" jointly organised by the Economic Research Centre of Shanghai Municipal Government and the Business and Professional Federation of Hong Kong.

"The capitalist free trade system of Hong Kong has enabled it to become a major source of investment and support services for the economic development of the socialist market economy of the mainland. The contribution of Hong Kong to the development of the mainland lies in its different institution and polices," Miss Yue said.

"The important task of policy-makers in the two places is to ensure the faithful implementation of the concept of 'one country, two systems'; preserve Hong Kong's capitalist and free trade system; implement the relevant provisions of the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law which guarantee the autonomy of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in trade and economic matters after 1997; understand clearly Hong Kong as a separate economic identity with separate membership in the World Trade Organisation, Asian Development Bank and the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation," Miss Yue explained.

As to the future economic and trade relationship between the HKSAR and the mainland, Miss Yue said this should be dealt with in accordance with international laws and practices as foreign trade and economic co-operation between the Chinese mainland as an entity and Hong Kong as a separate customs territory. The HKSAR Government should on its own establish and enforce the system of trade controls, including customs arrangements, administration of export quotas and issue of certificates of origin.

Miss Yue said she was optimistic about future growth in trade between Hong Kong and Shanghai. She also anticipated more investment flow between the two cities. At present Hong Kong is Shanghai's largest source of foreign investment and second largest trading partner, after Japan.

She said: "Hong Kong's experience and success in areas such as finance, shipping, port development, telecommunications and professional services could provide useful contribution to the development of Shanghai.

"Also, Hong Kong and Shanghai could complement each other in industrial and technological development. Shanghai's achievements in applied research and development work could benefit Hong Kong; whereas Hong Kong's knowledge of the global market could assist Shanghai in product design and development."

Miss Yue did not believe that there was a problem of Shanghai overtaking Hong Kong in its importance to China's development. Hong Kong's development was not stagnant and Hong Kong and Shanghai would continue their development under their own systems. With its enormous development potential, China would need more than just Hong Kong and Shanghai.

"In the long term, as it is now, the future development of Hong Kong and Shanghai will be a win-win situation for both cities," said Miss Yue.

End

Proposals on training and employment for the disabled

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The Government, with the advice and support of the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, will implement the proposals of the Report of the Working Party on Training and Employment for People with Disabilities.

This was stated by the Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan, when he officiated at the opening ceremony of the Lok Fu Compute-able Workshop today (Friday).

These proposals include the application of performance indicators for all sheltered workshops and implementation of case management.

"I will identify suitable sheltered workshops to work on a pilot basis under the new mode of operation for sheltered workshops as proposed by the report," Mr Strachan said.

"Suitable day activity centres in Kwun Tong, Yuen Long, Wong Tai Sin, Sha Tin and Kwai Chung will be identified to try out the extended services hours, subject to resources being available.

"I will soon implement the further expansion of supported employment services of an extra 710 places in 1996-97."

He said the working party recognised that the success of the above improvements would not depend solely on the resources available.

"Rather, we need to change our management culture in sheltered workshops, we need to monitor service performance continuously and above all, we need to demonstrate a commitment to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities," he added.

Mr Strachan said the Advisory Committee for the Marketing and Resources Unit, proposed by the report, had been set up to improve on the productivity and marketing aspects of sheltered workshops.

"With the back-up support from these experts, I am confident that the Marketing and Resources Unit will be established and will function effectively to promote the general productivity of sheltered workshops," he said.

The Lok Fu Compute-able Workshop, operated by the Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth, is another excellent example of a workshop set up on a business basis to promote independence for persons with disability.

End

Hong Kong dollar debt market survey

* * * * *

The size of the Hong Kong dollar debt market, as measured by the outstanding amount of Hong Kong dollar debt paper, stood at \$197 billion as at end 1995, according to the first comprehensive survey on local debt market activities conducted by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA).

As at end-1995, the outstanding amount of exchange fund bills and notes stood at \$58.7 billion while that of private sector paper stood at \$138.2 billion (Annex A).

Putting the figures into perspective, the size of the Hong Kong dollar debt market was roughly:

- * 17% of Hong Kong's gross domestic product;
- * 16% of Hong Kong dollar money supply;
- * 10% of Hong Kong dollar-denominated assets of the banking system;
and
- * 8% of stock market capitalisation.

While the Hong Kong dollar debt market is still small compared with the banking sector and the stock market, it has developed into an important avenue for raising funds in recent years.

In 1995, \$59.9 billion was raised through private sector debt issues, and the outstanding amount of exchange fund bills and notes increased by \$6.4 billion (Annex B).

By comparison, the increase in outstanding Hong Kong dollar loans by authorised institutions was \$115 billion in the first 11 months of 1995. Funds raised in the local stock market through initial public offerings amounted to \$7.6 billion last year.

On a regional comparison, the outstanding amount of private sector paper issued in Hong Kong has exceeded that of many debt markets in the region (Annex C).

Chief Executive of HKMA, Mr Joseph Yam, said: "The results show that the private sector Hong Kong dollar debt market is one of the most liquid in Asia.

"With greater regional co-operation, the potential for the Asian bond markets is tremendous."

The Survey on the Hong Kong dollar debt market was conducted in the second half of 1995 by HKMA with the co-operation of the Hong Kong Capital Markets Association.

Together with information gathered from the Central Moneymarkets Unit Service of HKMA and commercial sources, a more comprehensive frame of outstanding Hong Kong dollar debt issues has been established.

As from August 1995, information on new issue activities is also reported to HKMA.

Starting with the December 1995 figures, statistics on the outstanding amount and issue activity of Hong Kong dollar debt instruments will be published at quarterly interval in the HKMA monthly statistical bulletin.

Annex A

**Outstanding Amount of HK\$ Debt Issues
as at 31 December 1995**

(a) analyzed by product type :

(HK\$bn)

Exchange Fund Bills and Notes		58.73
Private Sector Debt Issues		138.22
of which :		
<i>Floating Rate</i>		89.68
FRCD	61.43	
FRN	25.04	
MBS	<u>3.21</u>	
<i>Fixed Rate</i>		48.54
FXCD	22.56	
Straight Bonds	<u>25.98</u>	
Total		<u>196.95</u>

(b) analyzed by term of original maturity of private sector debt issues :

(HK\$bn)

	<u>Fixed Rate Paper</u>	<u>Floating Rate Paper</u>	<u>Total (%)</u>	
< 3 years	6.55	5.19	11.74	(8.5)
3 - 5 years	25.92	73.08	99.00	(71.6)
> 5 years	16.07	11.41	27.48	(19.9)
Total	48.54	89.68	138.22	(100)

Annex B

Issue Activity of HK\$ Debt Securities in 1994 and 1995

	(HK\$bn)	
	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes (Net Issue Size)	24.28	6.39
Private Sector Debt Issues	53.29	59.89
of which :		
NCDs	36.35	37.36
Other Bonds and Notes	<u>16.94</u>	<u>22.53</u>

Annex C

Outstanding Size of Asian Bond Market

(US\$bn)

	<u>Hong Kong</u> (end 1995)	<u>Hong Kong</u> (end 1994)	<u>Singapore</u> (end 1994)	<u>Malaysia</u> (end 1994)	<u>Thailand</u> (end 1994)	<u>Philippines</u> (end 1994)	<u>Indonesia</u> (end 1994)
Government	7.59	6.84	42.3	41.61	10.23	25.1	8.37
National and Local Government	0	0.08	42.3	32.66	10.23	24.90	1.53
Central Bank / Monetary Authority	7.59	6.76	0	8.95	0	0.2	6.84
Private Sector	17.87	12.94	2.53	9.33	3.82	0	0.70
Corporate	7.01	4.65	2.53	4.88	3.51	0	0.70
NCDs	10.86	8.29	N/A	4.45	0.31	N/A	N/A
Total	25.46	19.78	44.83	50.94	14.05	25.10	9.07

N/A : Not Available

Notes :

1. The 1995 figures on Hong Kong are results of the Survey on the Hong Kong Dollar Debt Market. The 1994 figures on Hong Kong are estimated from various sources.
2. Sources of data on other Asian bond markets :
The Emerging Asian Bond Market, World Bank.
Asia's Bond Markets : The Real Story, HSBC Markets.

End

Environmental bill gazetted

The Government is to provide a statutory framework to formalise the existing administrative arrangements for undertaking environmental impact assessments (EIA) on development projects in both private and public sectors.

The statutory requirements are set out in the Environmental Impact Assessment Bill gazetted today (Friday). The Bill will provide a more satisfactory and effective framework to apply with consistency the EIA requirements to major development projects and to implement prevention and mitigation measures recommended in the EIA studies.

A spokesman for the Planning, Environment and Lands Branch said: "The existing administrative arrangements are not entirely satisfactory because in the absence of legal backing, there is practical difficulty to require a project proponent to implement prevention and mitigation measures recommended in an EIA study. This may have dire consequences on our environment."

The spokesman noted that the EIA procedures set out in the Bill were modelled on the present arrangements and would not lead to a significant cost increase in the planning and implementation of a project.

"In working out these procedures, we took into account views expressed by various professional bodies and trade associations during a consultation exercise," the spokesman said.

The Bill empowers the Director of Environmental Protection (DEP) to designate development projects which require an EIA and to regulate and enforce the EIA process.

To provide greater certainty for developments, the Bill sets time limits to process each and every step in the entire EIA process, from processing of a study brief to processing of an application for an environmental permit.

Under the Bill, a proponent of a designated project is required to apply to DEP for an EIA study brief and produce an EIA report in accordance with the brief.

If the EIA report meets the requirements set out in the study brief, it will be displayed for public inspection for one month. The Advisory Council on the Environment will be notified and may select a particular report for detailed consideration.

Having taken into account relevant environmental concerns and comments received, DEP will decide whether the EIA report should be approved and whether an environmental permit should be issued.

Project proponents may appeal against DEP's decision. The appeal will be heard by an Appeal Board whose chairman and vice-chairman will be appointed by the Governor.

The Bill also gives DEP power to investigate possible offences and, with the consent of the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, to order stoppage of works and implementation of remedial actions.

Offences under the legislation will be liable to a maximum fine of \$5 million and imprisonment up to two years.

End

One nomination received for DB by-election

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One nomination was received today (Friday), the first day of the nomination period for the Tuen Mun District Board by-election in respect of Tin King constituency to be held on March 3.

The candidate is Mr Lee Hung-sham, Lothar, a senior technical officer, aged 46.

Mr Lee can be contacted on 2465 5140 (daytime) and pager 71139998-1002 or 9463 5353 (night-time.)

The nomination period will last until February 1.

End

16th Annual Border Liaison Review next week

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At the invitation of the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, Mr Nicholas Ng, a Guangdong delegation led by the Director of the Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office, Mr Chao Zhenwei, will visit Hong Kong from January 22 to 24 for the 16th Annual Border Liaison Review, a government spokesman said today (Friday).

The Border Liaison System provides for exchanges of information and control at the border. The meeting will be held at 9 am on Monday (January 22) at 28 Kennedy Road. The two sides will review cross border co-operation and liaison arrangements over the past year and discuss ways of further strengthening these arrangements.

End

Land Registry to rationalise fees

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Five amendment regulations, which seek to rationalise the existing fee structure and set out the fees payable for various services by the Land Registry on a cost recovery basis, were gazetted today (Friday).

The five regulations are the Land Registration Fees (Amendment) Regulation 1995, the Land Registration (New Territories) Fees (Repeal) Regulation 1995, the Land Registration Fees (Amendment) Regulation 1995 (Amendment) Regulation 1996, the Land Registration (New Territories) Fees (Repeal) Regulation 1995 (Amendment) Regulation 1996 and the Land Registration (Amendment) Regulation 1996.

A government spokesman said in line with the "user pays" principle, the overall increase would be about 10 per cent.

But not all the fees will be revised upward. The main registration fees will be reduced, the land search fees unchanged and the other fees revised to recover the higher operational costs.

It is intended that the new fees will take effect on April 1, 1996.

The amended fees will be applicable to both the Urban and the New Territories Land Registries which provide similar services.

The spokesman said operating as a trading fund, the Land Registry was required to provide efficient and effective service and at the same time to recover the cost of its services.

"The Land Registry has been improving and developing its services and facilities and will continue to do so.

"It has recently computerised the New Territories land registers, provided on-line land search facilities, and introduced a modern Document Imaging System," the spokesman said.

End

Construction output statistics for 1995 third quarter

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The gross value of construction work performed, in nominal terms by main contractors, including general and special trade contractors, amounted to \$24.7 billion in the third quarter of 1995, and was 12.9% higher than a year earlier, according to the results of the Quarterly Survey of Construction Output released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Compared with the second quarter of 1995, the gross value of construction work performed by main contractors in the third quarter of 1995 increased by 0.7%.

Provisional estimate of the gross value of construction work performed, measured at constant (1990) market prices in the third quarter of 1995 was 1% higher than in the third quarter of 1994.

The gross value of construction work performed at private sector sites in the third quarter of 1995 totalled \$8.6 billion, and was 4.8% lower than in the third quarter of 1994. Over the same period, the gross value of construction work performed at constant (1990) market prices dropped by 13.1%. This was partly related to the completion of a number of major private sector projects.

On the other hand, the gross value of construction work performed at public sector sites was \$9.3 billion. It showed a substantial increase of 42.9% over the third quarter of 1994, reflecting the intensification of work on the major infrastructural projects. The corresponding increase when measured at constant (1990) market prices was 33.1%.

The gross value of construction work performed by general contractors at locations other than construction sites was \$4.5 billion, which was 7.8% higher than in the third quarter of 1994. However, when measured at constant (1990) market prices, the corresponding value was 10.3% lower than in the third quarter of 1994. The types of work covered included minor new construction and renovation work at erected buildings and structures.

The gross value of construction activities performed by special trade contractors at locations other than construction sites, comprising mainly electrical and mechanical fitting work, totalled \$2.2 billion, and was 5.7% higher than in the third quarter of 1994. When measured at constant (1990) market prices, the gross value of construction work performed by these contractors was 7.2% lower than in the third quarter of 1994.

Analysed by end-use, transport projects, which covered airport construction projects, accounted for the greatest portion of the gross value of construction work performed at construction sites. The gross value of construction work performed for these projects was \$6.2 billion, representing an increase of 64.3% over the third quarter of 1994.

Residential building projects (including commercial/ residential (composite) buildings) formed the second largest category of construction site work. The gross value of construction work performed for these projects was \$4.8 billion. This was 8.8% lower than in the third quarter of 1994.

Commercial building projects constituted the third largest category of construction site work. The gross value of construction work performed for these projects totalled \$1.6 billion, which was 21.1% lower than in the third quarter of 1994.

The gross values of construction work at constant (1990) market prices are derived by deflating the nominal values with appropriate price indices to the price level of 1990.

Owing to the widespread sub-contracting practices in the construction industry, a construction establishment can be a main contractor for one contract and a sub-contractor for another contract at the same time. The gross value of construction work performed by main contractors, including both general and special trade contractors, covers only those projects in which the construction establishment takes the role of a main contractor, but not projects in which it takes only the role of a sub-contractor. However, sub-contractors' contribution to projects should have been included in the gross value of construction work performed by main contractors for whom they worked.

More detailed statistics on construction output are given in the "Report on the Quarterly Survey of Construction Output, 3rd Quarter 1995". The report is now on sale at \$11 a copy at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway or the Census and Statistics Department Publications Unit, Wanchai Tower, 19th floor, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai. Regular subscription may also be arranged.

Enquiries about the survey may be directed to the Building, Construction and Real Estate Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2805 6426.

End

Value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in November 1995

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The value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand for local production in November 1995 increased by 4% over a year earlier, according to the provisional results of a monthly survey released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Comparing November 1995 with November 1994, a significant increase in the value of outstanding orders was recorded in the electronic products industry (+17%). Increases in the value of orders were also registered in the printing and publishing industry (+14%), the electrical products industry (+12%) and the fabricated metal products industry (+9%).

On the other hand, a significant decrease in the value of orders was recorded in the textiles industry (-20%). Slight decreases in the value of orders were also registered in the plastic products industry (-1%) and the wearing apparel industry (-1%).

Compared with October 1995, and bearing in mind that this comparison may be affected by seasonal factors, the value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in November 1995 increased by 3%.

The Monthly Survey of Orders-on-hand covers a sample of some 300 manufacturing firms engaging 50 or more workers.

Manufacturers' orders-on-hand refer to orders and parts of orders received earlier by manufacturers for local production which remain unfilled as at the end of the reference month. Orders received by traders not engaged in production are included if such orders are further placed to manufacturers for production locally. However, orders placed to manufacturing firms for production in China and other places outside Hong Kong are not included in this series of orders-on-hand statistics.

A spokesman of the department pointed out that caution should be exercised in interpreting the manufacturers' orders-on-hand figures in a single month. Instead, the trend movement of the series as displayed over a wider span of time points should be looked at.

The survey report for November 1995, at \$6 a copy, is now available for sale at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway and the Census and Statistics Department Publications Unit, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries about the survey results may be made to the Industrial Production Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2805 6441.

The following table shows the year-on-year percentage changes in the value of orders-on-hand in different manufacturing industries.

	Percentage changes in the value of orders-on-hand in	
	October 1995 over October 1994 (Revised)	November 1995 over November 1994 (Provisional)
All industries covered in the survey	+5	+4
- Wearing apparel	*	-1
- Textiles	-15	-20
- Electronic products	+14	+17
- Electrical products	+21	+12
- Fabricated metal products	+14	+9
- Plastic products	+1	-1
- Printing and publishing	+19	+14

* Changes within +/-0.5%

End

Board amends draft Sha Tin Outline Zoning Plan

* * * * *

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

The major amendment is to rezone a 0.65-hectare site at the junction of On Lai Street and On Ping Street in Shek Mun Industrial Area from "Industrial" to "Commercial" for the provision of supporting commercial/office services to industrial undertakings and manufacturing activities in the area.

Other amendments include the rezoning of two sites fronting Sha Tin Heights Section of Tai Po Road, with areas of about 0.17 hectare and 0.09 hectare respectively, from "Open Space" and "Green Belt" to "Residential (Group C)" to facilitate the redevelopment of the sites.

The amendment plan (No S/ST/7) is now available for public inspection until February 9, 1996 at:

- * Planning Department,
16th floor, Murray Building,
Garden Road, Central,
Hong Kong;
- * Sha Tin, Tai Po and North District Planning Office,
ground floor, Sha Tin Government Offices,
6 Tung Lo Wan Hill Road, Sha Tin,
New Territories;
- * Sha Tin District Office,
sixth floor, City Link Plaza,
Sha Tin Station Circuit, Sha Tin,
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 on or before February 9, 1996.

Copies of the draft plan are available for sale at the Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong and the Kowloon Map Sales Office, ground floor, 382 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

End

TELA's statement on screening of half naked girls on TV

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In response to media enquiries about the screening of two half naked girls in ATV's midday news on the Home Channel today (Friday), a spokesman for the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA) said by 5 pm today, 33 complaints had been received.

ATV has apologised to the public and TELA for the mistake and promised to conduct a detailed investigation on how it came about.

TELA will decide in the next few days whether to refer the case to the Broadcasting Authority's Complaints Committee for contravention of the programme standards for commercial television.

In case of such a referral, the Committee will invite and consider representations from the station before making any recommendation to the Broadcasting Authority on what actions to take.

The Broadcasting Authority will reach a decision in about six weeks from now, the spokesman added.

End

Navy base opens to public

* * * * *

Spectacular action and exciting arena displays will be the highlights of events when Stonecutters Island opens its gate to the public during its Open Day on January 27 and 28 (Saturday and Sunday).

The two-day Open Day is jointly organised by the Royal Navy, at HMS Tamar, and the Hong Kong Military Service Corps. It is the second time the event has taken place since the Navy moved from its former base in Central to the present location on Stonecutters Island.

Also open to the public during the event will be a large number of souvenir shops, game stalls and military displays, some of which will provide opportunity to examine and handle selected items of military equipment.

The weekend is being staged, firstly, to raise money for the Locally Enlisted Personnel Trust, the charity set up by the British Forces to provide funds for Hong Kong Chinese ex-members of the British Garrison who may find themselves in need or distress after 1997, and, secondly, to allow the general public access to the military and to show them some of our work.

Admission to Stonecutters Island will be by tickets which are now on sale as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Star Ferry Concourse</u>	<u>MTR Station</u>
Now until 26 Jan 96	Central & Tsim Sha Tsui	
20 & 21 Jan 96		Tsim Sha Tsui Tsuen Wan Kowloon Tong Kwun Tong Central Tai Koo Mong Kok

End

Beat drug forum and video premiere

* * * * *

The Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan, will officiate at a forum tomorrow (Saturday) on 'Helping young people be drug-free' and the premiere of a video targeted at parents on the handling of drug problems among their children.

The forum cum video premiere will be held at 9.30 am at the gymnasium of Lady Trench Training Centre at 44 Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai. About 170 social workers and teachers will be present.

The production of the video is one of the pledges as announced by the Governor in the Summit Meeting on Drugs in March last year.

The new video will be distributed to schools, drug rehabilitation centres, welfare agencies rendering services to young people and concerned government departments after the premiere.

End

Prequalification tenders invited for treatment works

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The Water Supplies Department is inviting prequalification tenders for Stage II of the Sham Tseng Treatment Works, a waterworks sludge dewatering plant and the Sham Tseng West Fresh Water Service Reservoir extension at Tsing Lung Tau in the New Territories.

Scope of works comprise the construction of all civil and building works for Stage II of the Sham Tseng Treatment Works to increase the water treatment capacity from 23,000 cubic metres per day to 36,500 cubic metres per day and to include a waterworks sludge dewatering plant.

Works will also involve extension of the Sham Tseng West Fresh Water Service Reservoir to increase the storage capacity from 20,000 cubic metres to 30,000 cubic metres; the design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of all electrical and mechanical plant and equipment, instrumentation and controls, building services and fire services; and all associated works.

Written applications for prequalification documents should be directed to the Chief Engineer/Design, Water Supplies Department, 46th floor, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Hong Kong.

Completed prequalification applications should be submitted as directed not later than noon on February 16.

End

Proposed road works in Sha Tin and Tuen Mun

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A new road linking Tung Lo Wan Hill Road and Mei Tin Road in Sha Tin has been proposed by a private developer to serve the Tung Lo Wan area and a proposed residential development.

Works will include the construction of a new road linking Tung Lo Wan Hill Road and Mei Tin Road including footpaths, a roundabout at the junction of the proposed road and Tung Lo Wan Hill Road, a public car park with about 52 spaces at the junction of the proposed road and Tung Lo Wan Hill Road and noise barrier.

Existing staircase, footpaths and cul-de-sac will be permanently closed.

Resumption of land will not be required and necessary access will be maintained during the construction.

Plans and scheme can be seen at the Central and Western District Office, Public Enquiry Service Centre, ground floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong; the Sha Tin District Lands Office, 2 Tung Lo Wan Hill Road, Sha Tin, New Territories; and at the Sha Tin District Office, sixth floor, Citylink Plaza, Sha Tin Railway Station, New Territories.

Written objections describing the interest and manner alleged to be affected must reach the Secretary for Transport, Central Government Offices, East Wing, second floor, Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong not later than March 19.

Meanwhile, a new road and a footpath linking Tsun Wen Road and Kin Shing Lane in Tuen Mun will be built by the developer of a land lot in Area 5B.

A section of Tsun Wen Road will also be widened to serve the proposed commercial and residential development, public car park, secondary school and local open space in the area.

Construction work will commence in mid-1996. On completion, the new roads and footpaths will be handed back to the Government for maintenance.

Notices containing the two proposed works are contained in the Government Gazette published today (Friday).

End

Proposed road works in North Point

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The Government has proposed to carry out a series of road works in North Point to improve the turning radiuses at the road junction of Braemar Hill Road and Cloud View Road.

The works will include the amendment of the road alignment at the junction of Braemar Hill Road and Cloud View Road; setting back of sections of the existing fence walls at Kiangsu Chekiang College, Man Kiu College and Church of Christ in China Kwei Wah Shan College; reconstruction of sections of the existing footpaths; conversion of sections of the existing footpaths to carriageway; construction of footpaths and carriageway; and other ancillary works.

A notice of the proposed works was gazetted today (Friday).

The plan of the proposed road works can be seen at the Public Enquiry Services Centre of the Central and Western District Office, the Hong Kong East District Lands Office and the Eastern District Office.

Any person objecting to the works should send the objection in writing to the Secretary for Transport, Central Government Offices, East Wing, second floor, Lower Albert Road, Central not later than March 19, 1996, describing his interest and the manner in which he will be affected.

End

Roadworks for Tai Po proposed

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The Government has proposed to carry out roadworks in Tai Po as part of the continuing development programme for the new town.

The works include modification of the road junction at Tai Po road (Tai Po Kau section) and Yau King Lane, widening and reconstruction of a section of road and footpath along the existing Yau King Lane and construction of an one-kilometre long road linking Yau King Lane and Area 39.

The works are scheduled to begin in the middle of this year for completion in two years.

A notice of the proposed roadworks was gazetted today (Friday).

The plan and scheme of the works can be seen at the Public Enquiry Service Centre of the Central and Western District Office, the Tai Po District Lands Office and the Tai Po District Office.

Any person wishing to object to the proposal should write to the Secretary for Transport, Central Government Offices, East Wing, second floor, Lower Albert Road, Central, no later than March 19, describing his interest and manner in which he will be affected.

End

Tenders for desilting works invited

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The Drainage Services Department is inviting tenders for watercourse desilting works in the territory.

The works will include the desilting, maintenance, repair and improvement of watercourses and drainage channels in the territory.

The contract will last for 30 months, starting from April 1996.

A notice of the tender invitation was gazetted today (Friday).

Tender forms and further particulars may be obtained from the office of the Chief Engineer, Land Drainage Division, Drainage Services Department, 11th floor, Kowloon Government Offices, 405 Nathan Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon.

The tender closing date is noon on February 9, 1996.

End

New road for Yung Shue Wan approved

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The Governor-in-Council has given approval for the Territory Development Department to construct a road on the reclamation area in Yung Shue Wan, Lamma Island.

The 270-metre-long road will link up Yung Shue Wan Main Street and the reclamation area to provide pedestrian and vehicular access.

Associated drainage, a 140-metre-long retaining wall, a public loading and unloading area and a vehicle parking area will also be built on the reclaimed area along the southern coast of Yung Shue Wan. The works are scheduled to begin in September for completion in March 1998.

A notice of the authorisation of the works was gazetted today (Friday).

End

Tai O sewer and road works endorsed

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The Governor-in-Council has authorised the Territory Development Department to proceed with sewer and road works in Tai O, Lantau, but with modifications to the works.

The works include the construction of new trunk sewers and reconstruction of the existing road pavement along Shek Tsai Po Street, Tai O Market Street, Kat Hing Street and Kat Hing Back Street.

The modifications involve shifting the alignment of Shek Tsai Po Street and revision of the resumption limit of a lot.

The works are scheduled to begin in September for completion in two years.

A notice of the authorisation of the works was gazetted today (Friday).

The plan of the modified works can be seen at the Public Enquiry Service Centre of the Central and Western District Office, the Islands District Lands Office, the Island District Office and its Mui Wo Sub-office.

End

Tenders invited for school improvement programme

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for alteration works to six aided schools.

Works will involve new extension work covering a total floor area of 6,018 square metres and conversion work with a total floor area of 2,123 square metres, including associated building services and drainage systems.

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

Tenders must be clearly marked and addressed to the Chairman of the Central Tender Board.

They must be placed in the Government Secretariat tender box in the lift lobby on the lower ground floor, Central Government Offices (East Wing), Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong, before noon on Friday, February 16.

Late tenders will not be accepted.

End

Immigration staff commended for outstanding service

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The Deputy Director of Immigration, Mr Christopher Lee Ka-keung, presented commendation certificates to 26 staff at a ceremony held in the Immigration Department Headquarters this (Friday) afternoon.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr Lee said the department had experienced another very busy year in 1995.

"With limited resources, we have experienced upsurge in passenger traffic at control points and ever-increasing workload at various offices.

"The preparation for the issue of Hong Kong Special Administration Region passports and the planning and implementation of a series of automation activities have also called for our staff's extra effort in meeting the new challenges."

Mr Lee congratulated the recipients of the commendation certificates stating that despite the exceeding tight manpower resources, they had demonstrated an extraordinary degree of professionalism and exemplary devotion to the service.

Their outstanding performance had brought them not only personal pride and achievement, it also helped project a good image of the department, he said.

Amongst the 26 staff receiving commendation, Senior Immigration Officer Leung Kam-kwong and 18 other officers of the Special Investigation Section, were commended for their outstanding efforts and high degree of professionalism in a joint operation with the United States Immigration and Naturalisation Service.

The operation resulted in the successful neutralisation of a sophisticated international criminal syndicate and the arrest of 18 people in Hong Kong, 14 in New York and seven in Frankfurt, who were involved in arranging PRC nationals to enter the USA illegally via Hong Kong and other countries by using forged or unlawfully obtained travel documents.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,551	0930	-550
Closing balance in the account	2,344	1000	-550
Change attributable to :		1100	-550
Money market activity	-562	1200	-550
LAF today	+355	1500	-550
		1600	-562

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 123.8 *+0.2* 19.1.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Terms	EF bills		EF notes			
	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.45	2 years	2711	5.60	100.66	5.28
1 month	5.42	3 years	3810	6.15	101.97	5.44
3 months	5.36	5 years	5012	6.38	102.43	5.89
6 months	5.31	7 years	7211	6.82	104.10	6.17
12 months	5.20	5 years	M502	7.30	105.00	6.17

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$12,623 million

Closed January 19, 1996

End