



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Condolences to Xinjiang fire victims

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, this (Friday) afternoon expressed deepest condolences, on behalf of the Hong Kong Government and the people of Hong Kong, to the parents and friends of children who died in a cinema fire in Xinjiang, China.

Speaking to reporters after officiating at the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of the Open Learning Institute, Mr Patten said he had been shocked and concerned by the news headlines about the tragedy.

"I'd like, on behalf of the Government of Hong Kong and the people of Hong Kong, to express our deepest condolences to the parents and friends of those children and to officials in China," he said.

"Obviously, our thoughts and prayers go to all those who've lost loved ones in this terrible tragedy."

Asked whether the Government intended to donate some money to the Chinese Government in Xinjiang to help those children or their families, the Governor said: "Obviously, we will want to hear more details about the fire or its aftermath."

"But you know as well as I do that in previous disasters, they'd been natural disasters, the people of Hong Kong, the Government of Hong Kong have responded with as much generosity as they could.

"But I am not sure whether this tragedy is in the same category of some of those natural tragedies like the terrible floodings that we've seen in China," he said.

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Transcript of Governor's media session

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The following is a transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, after officiating at the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of the Open Learning Institute this (Friday) afternoon:

Governor: Like everyone else in Hong Kong, I've been shocked and concerned by the news headlines about the terrible tragedy in China with hundreds of children dying in a cinema fire. I'd like, on behalf of the Government of Hong Kong and the people of Hong Kong, to express our deepest condolences to the parents and friends of those children and to officials in China. Obviously, our thoughts and prayers go to all those who've lost loved ones in this terrible tragedy. I am sure that members of our own Fire Department would have been thinking particularly keenly about what's happened in China. But, I'd just want to put on the record our deep concern about what's happened.

Question: There is some kind of charitable fund in Hong Kong Government. Will the Government intend to donate some money to the Chinese Government in Xinjiang in order to help those children or their families?

Governor: I think, obviously, we will want to hear more details about the fire or its aftermath. But you know as well as I do that in previous disasters, they'd been natural disasters, the people of Hong Kong, the Government of Hong Kong have responded with as much generosity as they could. But I am not sure whether this tragedy is in the same category of some of those natural tragedies like the terrible floodings that we've seen in China.

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Government disappointed at Bar Association's stand on CFA

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The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, this (Friday) afternoon expressed disappointment at the Bar Association's failure to support the Court of Final Appeal Bill at its extraordinary general meeting (EGM) yesterday.

Speaking to reporters after inspecting the Immigration Service Annual Parade, Mrs Chan said: "It doesn't seem to us that the members of the Bar Association have taken into account the wider public interest.

"But on the other hand, we note that the motion that was eventually passed at the EGM is much less negative than that proposed by the Bar Council. In particular, we note that the motion states very clearly that it is a wish of members of the Bar Association to see the Court of Final Appeal established before 1997 in accordance with the Basic Law and the Joint Declaration."

Mrs Chan reiterated Government's intention to see the establishment of the Court of Final Appeal by 1996 at the latest.

"In order to achieve this target, we need to see the bill enacted during the current session of the Legislative Council," Mrs Chan said.

"If we fail to enact the CFA, then of course, we run the serious risk of judicial vacuum at the very highest level, possibly for two or three years until the Special Administrative Region sets up a Court of Final Appeal after 1997 and, of course, there's no guarantee that the Court of Final Appeal established after 1997 would be any better in terms of composition of the Court of Final Appeal than the one that we've already reached agreement with the Chinese on the 1991 agreement."

In response to a question about the setting up of a provisional legislature, Mrs Chan: "In our view, elections to the legislature next year are fully in accordance with the Basic Law and the Joint Declaration and we see no reason why those elected into the legislature in 1995 should not ride the through-train."

"The best way of avoiding confusion and providing certainty both to the community of Hong Kong and to the international investing public is precisely to have continuity in the legislature."

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Transcript of Chief Secretary's media session

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The following is a transcript of the media session by the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, after inspecting the Immigration Service Annual Parade this (Friday) afternoon:

CS: Good afternoon, everyone. I'd like to say a few words about the Court of Final Appeal. As you know, the Bar Association had its EGM yesterday. We are naturally very disappointed that at its EGM yesterday, the Bar Association failed to support the Court of Final Appeal Bill. It doesn't seem to us that the members of the Bar Association have taken into account the wider public interest. But on the other hand, we note that the motion that was eventually passed at the EGM is much less negative than that proposed by the Bar Council. In particular, we note that the motion states very clearly that it is a wish of members of the Bar Association to see the Court of Final Appeal established before 1997 in accordance with the Basic Law and the Joint declaration. On our part, we have said on many occasions that we are fully confident that the 1991 agreement with the Chinese is in full accord with the Basic Law and the Joint Declaration. We had given the Bar Association an authoritative statement from Her Majesty's Government, stating that this is so. We also note that the Bar Association has stated at its EGM that members of the Bar Association should concentrate on the legal and technical aspects of the bill, leaving the political aspect to the Legislative Council. This is precisely what we are consulting the members of the legal profession on. That is that we would wish to have their views on the legal and technical provisions in the draft bill now before them. We now look forward to receiving comments from members of the Bar Association. Let me state once again that it is our intention to see the establishment of the Appeal Board by 1996 at the latest. In order to achieve this target, we need to see the bill enacted during the current session of the Legislative Council. If we fail to enact the CFA, then of course, we run the serious risk of judicial vacuum at the very highest level, possibly for two or three years until the Special Administrative Region sets up a Court of Final Appeal after 1997 and, of course, there's no guarantee that the Court of Final Appeal established after 1997 would be any better in terms of composition of the Court of Final Appeal than the one that we've already reached agreement with the Chinese on the 1991 agreement. Finally, the Law Society, of course, will also be having its own meeting on December 21. I hope very much that members of the Law Society will take into account the wider public interest and will feel able to support the draft bill now before them. If they have any comments on the technical and legal aspects of the bill, we would be very happy to receive comments from them and, indeed, from any other members of the community. We will give careful consideration to these comments in deciding whether to propose amendments to the draft bill. Thank you.

Question: Mrs Chan, which party should consider the political aspect of the bill?

CS: We feel that members of the legal profession should concentrate chiefly on the technical and legal aspects of the bill. This is the main purpose of the consultation with the legal profession.

Question: Has the administration stated ..... clearly at the outset?

CS: I don't think we need to state clearly. I think members of the legal profession are quite well aware of the aspects on which we very much would like to have their views, from the legal practitioners' point of view.

Question: Then, which party within .....?

CS: I think that's all. Next question.

Question: Mrs Chan, how do you react to Chinese ..... mention that there be the setting up a provisional legislature and will that assure that Hong Kong will not have a legal vacuum?

CS: It appears to me that Mr Qian Qichen's concern is to avoid confusion and to have a through train in the legislature. This is, of course, very much our wish too to have a through train in the legislature. In our view, elections to the legislature next year are fully in accordance with the Basic Law and the Joint Declaration and we see no reason why those elected into the legislature in 1995 should not ride the through train. The best way of avoiding confusion and providing certainty both to the community of Hong Kong and to the international investing public is precisely to have continuity in the legislature.

End/Friday, December 9, 1994

Interim arrangement on patient cards reached

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An interim arrangement on a without prejudice basis was reached today (Friday) between Dr Patrick Shiu Kin-ying and the Inland Revenue Department in relation to the patient cards held by the department.

Under the arrangement, these cards which had previously been held in sealed containers are to be copied, as from today, under the supervision of Dr Shiu or his authorised representative.

The copying is to be carried out in a manner which ensures that the details of the patients are not revealed to staff of the department.

When copying has been completed, the cards will be resealed. The copies will be taken by Dr Shiu for use in his practice.

It is understood that an application for leave for judicial review was filed earlier today. The original cards will be unsealed again on December 15 this year for examination unless the court orders otherwise.

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#### Fees for degree and sub-degree courses

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The Government announced today (Friday) the fees for degree and sub-degree courses in institutions funded by the University and Polytechnic Grants Committee for the 1995-96 academic year.

The new fee for degree courses will be \$30,750 and that for sub-degree courses will be \$23,065.

A Government spokesman said the adjustment followed a policy decision in January 1991 to increase gradually the cost recovery rate of degree courses to reach 18 per cent by the academic year 1997-98 and that the fee for sub-degree courses should be 75 per cent of that for degree courses.

The objective is to strike a reasonable balance between students and the community in sharing the costs of tertiary education.

"We are seeking a larger contribution from those who can afford to pay," he said.

It is estimated that the new fees for 1995-96 represent 14.5 per cent cost recovery rate.

The indicative fees for the three subsequent academic years 1996-99 are:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Indicative Fee (Degree)</u>	<u>Indicative Fee (Sub-degree)</u>	<u>Estimated Cost Recovery Rate</u>
1996/97	\$37,600	\$28,200	16.5%
1997/98	\$43,850	\$32,890	18.0%
1998/99	\$48,020	\$36,015	18.0%

The Legislative Council passed a motion in June this year urging that tertiary tuition fees be frozen pending a review.

Having taken into account the need to strike a reasonable balance between students and the community in sharing the costs of tertiary education and the various improvement measures to the Local Student Finance Scheme, the Government has decided to maintain the cost recovery target in accordance with the established policy, but to adjust the fee increases to achieve the target more smoothly over the next three years.

"The peak in fee increases to achieve the 18% cost recovery target is now passed," the spokesman said.

"The fees for 1995-96 represent a 28% increase over 1994-95 and from now on the indicative fees represent a decline in the rate of increase in stages to 15% increase in 1997-98 over the previous year."

The increase in fees should not cause hardship to needy students as corresponding adjustments to student financial assistance will be made.

In addition, subject to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council's approval, the Government will spend an additional \$203 million on an extended loan scheme and another \$122 million to improve the level of grants in connection with various improvement measures to the existing scheme to local students over the next four years.

The spokesman explained that these improvements "should help meet the possible difficulties faced by those students who marginally surpass the eligibility limit for financial assistance."

"It remains Government policy that no student should be denied access to higher education because of a lack of means," he stressed.

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## HK emerges as Asia's leading tourism destination

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Hong Kong's emergence as Asia's leading tourism destination is the product of the close co-operation and strong partnership which have developed among the Government, the Hong Kong Tourist Association and various sectors of the industry, the Financial Secretary, Sir Hamish Macleod, said.

Addressing the Hong Kong Hotels Association Gala Dinner this (Friday) evening, Sir Hamish said so far as the pace and direction of tourism development was concerned, the Government believed in general that the private sector should be left to make these decisions.

"At the same time we have provided consistent support to the industry through direct subventions to the Hong Kong Tourist Association, and through an on-going programme of expenditure at Kai Tak Airport to keep it operating at optimum efficiency," he added.

He noted that the territory was making huge investments in a new airport and related transport infrastructure, which would add to Hong Kong's attraction as a major tourist centre.

He was confident that the Tsing Ma and Kap Shui Mun Bridges would become a new tourist attraction themselves.

Turning to hotels, Sir Hamish said the Government was alert to the concerns about the possibility of hotel rooms shortage.

He pointed out that a total of about 4 200 new rooms would be provided during the next four years alone through the construction of new hotels and extension of existing ones.

The incorporation of specific requirements for hotel developments by the Government in a number of Comprehensive Development Areas on the Central and Western Kowloon Reclamation was expected to produce an additional 4,700 hotel rooms, he said.

A consultancy study commissioned by the Hong Kong Tourist Association would assess whether the provision of hotel accommodation was likely to be sufficient to meet the projected growth in demand.

The Government hoped to receive some initial results from the consultants' work early in the new year, Sir Hamish said.

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Transition to universal education not yet complete: SEM

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The transition from a selective to a universal system of education will not be complete until educators change the way they approach their work.

This was the theme of a speech by the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Michael Leung, at the 30th anniversary dinner of the Association of Heads of Secondary Schools tonight (Friday).

"I put forward the proposition that the transition from a selective to a universal education system is still incomplete," Mr Leung said.

"We have completed the quantitative aspects of the transition. But the qualitative aspects of the transition depend much more on what professional educators can do, than on anything the Government can do."

Mr Leung said some educators still looked back to a mythical "Golden Age" when all students were well-behaved and eager to learn; when the Government and the public let schools go peacefully about their business of helping students pass exams; and there were no winds of change blowing around the schools.

"Nearly a quarter of a century ago we introduced universal, free and compulsory primary education," Mr Leung said.

"This was a major advance in public policy. Previously, we aimed to provide places for children who wanted schooling, or who we thought could benefit from it.

"But since 1971, education has been recognised as a means for developing the potential of all our young people, the bright and not so bright, the eager and the not so eager, in the interests of the continued economic and social development of Hong Kong."

To support the proposition that the transition to universal education is still incomplete, Mr Leung referred to the response from educators to the report of the Working Group on Language Proficiency, on which the public were consulted earlier this year.

"The report suggested that we need a strategy for failure prevention in primary education," Mr Leung said.

"Interestingly, the response from the Association of Heads of Secondary Schools made no reference at all to this suggestion, even though many secondary schools have a hard job to provide a good education to those who leave primary school with a sense of failure.

"Another group of professional educators, working in an important area of our support services, responded by saying: 'The factors causing a sense of failure among students are complicated, and it is unrealistic to want to prevent all of it.'

"The first part of that response is obviously true," Mr Leung noted. "All the more reason, then, for a strategy to identify and tackle as many of the complicated, failure-inducing factors as we can.

"But the second part of that response shows clearly the point I am trying to make. There are still professional educators, including some in positions of influence, who believe we should not even try to achieve the public policy goal of universal education.

"If we cannot persuade such educators to face up to the realities of the present day, to the desires and demands of the community and the needs of all our young people, what hope is there for tackling those important issues of quality in education which we face now?" Mr Leung asked.

In another example, Mr Leung noted a finding of the perception survey conducted on behalf of the Working Group on Language Proficiency earlier this year.

"The survey found that the Chinese Language syllabus is perceived to be 'uninteresting' and 'lacking in relevance to the students lives' - not just by students, but by teachers as well," Mr Leung said.

"When the teachers themselves share this rather damning perception, one must ask: Why have professional educators in the area of Chinese Language teaching not been able to push for changes which will lead to more interesting teaching approaches, more effective learning, and a more enjoyable and rewarding teaching career?" Mr Leung asked.

Mr Leung urged educators themselves to take a hard look at their professional responsibilities, and respond positively to the opportunities offered by the report on Quality in School Education, published on December 7.

"The report proposes a framework of quality assurance based on transparency, respect for professionalism, and professional accountability," Mr Leung said.

"Educators must face issues of quality improvement and professionalism with vigour and determination.

"I have no doubt that the Association of Heads of Secondary Schools, with 30 years of history behind it, will take up the challenge and provide ideas and suggestions for completing the transition to universal education," Mr Leung said.

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#### Immigration Department plays major role in HK's stability and prosperity

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The Immigration Department will continue to play an important role in maintaining the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong in the run-up to 1997, the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, said today (Friday).

Speaking at the 1994 Annual Parade of the Immigration Service, Mrs Chan said the department in the past 33 years had played a major role in helping to maintain the stability and internal security of Hong Kong.

"Immigration staff have provided effective immigration control at our land, sea and air entry points.

"They have also been responsible for the issuing of high quality travel documents and identity cards, maintaining an accurate registration of persons and, together with the Police Force, combating illegal immigration and other immigration offences," she said.

The Chief Secretary believed that the list of challenges the department faced was daunting.

Impressed by the department's flexible response to changing demands, Mrs Chan said it had set a very good example for the rest of the civil service in improving efficiency in the face of an increasing workload.

"Civil servants must cope with a changing social and political environment and the consequent changes in the needs of the community, while maintaining the Government's tight control over public spending."

Mrs Chan was confident that the Immigration Department would once again demonstrate its ability in taking on new challenges with professionalism and commitment.

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#### Festive lighting for Tsuen Wan

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Tsuen Wan district will take on a festive look when it is lit up with Christmas and New Year lighting today (Friday).

Speaking at the switching-on ceremony, the Director of Homes Affairs, Mr Joseph Wong, said the illuminations would not only add to the festive atmosphere of the joyful seasons, but also promote local organisations' and residents' sense of belonging to the district.

The glittering colour will be focused around the Tsuen Wan Mass Transit Railway station, the Tsuen Wan Plaza, and a section of Sha Tsui Road between Tai Ho Road and Ham Tin Road.

Costing over \$1 million, the lighting projects are jointly sponsored by the Tsuen Wan District Board, the Regional Council and local commercial organisations.

There will also be a photo contest on the festive lighting. The deadline for enrolment is on December 29.

Application forms and leaflets on the contest can be obtained from Tsuen Wan District Office.

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Opportunity for education opens to everyone

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Everyone who has the desire and the determination to do better for themselves enjoys every opportunity to get a better education, the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, said today (Friday).

Speaking at the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony for the Open Learning Institute, Mr Patten described the institute as an excellent resource for the people of Hong Kong, responding to and encouraging the desire for self improvement.

He was pleased to note that a Research Fund had been set up for adult education to help develop the institute into a centre of excellence in the study of adult learning for the whole region.

He noted that the institute had already been an outstanding success. Opening with less than 5,000 students in 1989, you have this October enrolled well over 18,000.

"All who have worked so hard to achieve this success - the excellent faculty, good administrators and hard working students - all can take great pride in their accomplishments," he said.

Mr Patten pointed out that the foundation of the institute's permanent campus held out the promise of better facilities, of room for growth, of sustained commitment to open learning in Hong Kong.

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TPB reviews annex building application

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The Town Planning Board reviewed the application for the proposed Legislative Council annex building at Chater Garden, Central this (Friday) morning.

At the meeting, representatives of the applicant explained in detail the need for consolidated facilities for the Legislative Council, the difficulties regarding the site selection for the building, technical constraints on the site under application, the feasibility of retaining some of the existing trees within the site and transplanting others, and the merits of the present proposal.

Members considered carefully the points made in the written submission and in the representations at the review hearing, and, in particular, the need for the annex building to facilitate the efficient operation of Legislative Council and render it easily accessible to the public.

However, they were not fully convinced that the present design of the proposed building under application was wholly compatible with the use of the Chater Garden as a garden for the public.

The proposed design would also involve transplanting 180 existing trees, out of a total of 280, and raising part of the garden to a level some five metres above ground, causing visual intrusion and possible inconvenience to future park users.

The replacement garden would not be comparable to the mature state of the present garden with interlocking branches of mature trees forming a natural woodland in an urban setting.

After lengthy deliberation, members generally considered that there was scope for extending the annex building further at basement level so as to reduce visual intrusion.

Also, there was a need for the removal/transplanting of existing trees on the site to be reduced.

They were of the view that further improvement to the currently proposed development could be achieved by minimising the intrusiveness of the building structure above ground, reducing the adverse impact on the existing trees and enhancing the accessibility of the replacement garden space.

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#### Government House: the story of its unique place in HK's history

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An updated and revised version of the story of Government House and its unique place in Hong Kong's history has just been published and is now available at all major bookshops.

Since its completion in 1855, Government House has enjoyed a history as colourful and mixed as that of Hong Kong itself.

Situated on an otherwise bare hillside on a site which at that time stood high above the city, the first Government House took 10 years to be approved and another four to build.

Over the years as the city grew around it, its location was disparaged and alternatives were contemplated, its woodwork was attacked by white ants and, for many years, it was considered uninhabitable during the hot summer months, but it persevered and slowly established a place for itself in the affections of the people of Hong Kong.

A ballroom annexe almost as large as the original house was added in 1891, and much of the structure was rebuilt by the Japanese in 1943 - in a totally different style but following the original floor plan.

Today, surrounded by high-rise office towers, Government House looks out over the vibrant Central business district.

Together with its inhabitants, Government House has presided over the transformation of Hong Kong into one of the most remarkable cities of the 20th century.

Inside, the spirit that has made that transformation possible is reflected in the recent renovations.

Now restored to its former glory, Government House functions as an elegant, enduring and commanding symbol of Hong Kong's history.

Thoroughly researched and illustrated with more than 100 photographs and drawings, many published for the first time, "The Story of Government House" documents the history of the house in unparalleled detail to create a unique record of this remarkable building and its inhabitants, from the first Governor to live there to the present 28th Governor of Hong Kong, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten.

In a foreword in the book, Mr Patten says: "I am delighted that 'The Story of Government House' is being brought up to date, helping to share the fascinating history of the place even as it prepares for one of the most intriguing changes of all.

"Those who read this book will see that the house, like Hong Kong itself, has faced many great changes in its past and can face the future with an optimism that comes from the great vitality of the community in whose heart it stands."

The book is a joint effort between the Government Information Services, Miss Katherine Mattock, the author of the first book on Government House published by GIS in 1978, Miss Jill Cheshire, the project architect responsible for the recent renovations and restoration and Mr Ian Lambot of Studio Publications Ltd.

In addition to bookshops, it is also on sale at the Government Publications Centre on the ground floor of Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway (next to the entrance to Pacific Place), Hong Kong.

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#### HK's position put to US delegation on unilateral changes to US textile rules

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Trade Department officials today (Friday) formally put on record Hong Kong's position on unilateral changes to the US textiles origin rules during a meeting with a visiting US government delegation.

The US delegation, headed by Deputy Chief Textile Negotiator, Ms Caroyl Miller, is here for consultations on matters relating to Hong Kong/US textile trade.

"We have taken the opportunity of the delegation's visit to put on record our position and to reserve our rights under relevant bilateral and multilateral agreements," Deputy Director- General of Trade, Mr Thomas Yiu, said after the meeting.

The US Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA), which became law upon the US President's signature yesterday, stipulates principles that will fundamentally change current US origin rules for textile and clothing products.

The Act requires the US Secretary of the Treasury to announce final detailed rules to implement the principles by July 1 next year for implementation by July 1, 1996.

"It is therefore not possible at this stage to be precise about the effect the final rules might have on Hong Kong's textile exports to the US," Mr Yiu said.

"We will follow closely the development of the detailed rules in the US and take appropriate actions to protect Hong Kong's interests, including eventually having consultations with the US.

"Exactly how our trade will be affected will depend on the final detailed rules. In the coming months, we will be monitoring developments in the US very closely. We will consult our industry advisors and would welcome views from the trade."

Mr Yiu said: "We had a useful meeting this morning. The two sides discussed the terms of notification to be made by Hong Kong and the US to the Textiles Monitoring Body (TMB) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), on administrative arrangements necessary for the implementation of US restraints on Hong Kong's textile exports."

Article 2 of the WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) requires notification to the TMB of quantitative restrictions and administrative arrangements necessary for the implementation of such restrictions upon the entry into force of the ATC.

According to present plans, the ATC will come into force together with the WTO on January 1 next year.

During the meeting, Trade Department officials also formally raised objection to the US notification to convert Cat 834 (men's and boys' coats and jackets of silk-blend or non-cotton vegetable fibre) into a Specified Limit starting next year.

"The US called us on the item in May, and without our agreement imposed a limit of 10,500 dozens for 1994," Mr Yiu said.

"We told them then that the call was unjustified, and we told them today that the conversion of the item into a Specified Limit is equally unjustified," he added.

Under the Hong Kong/US Textiles Bilateral, the US may under certain specified conditions ask Hong Kong to limit exports of the relevant products for that year.

In respect of such a product for which a limit has been established, the US may elect to convert the limit into a Specified Limit with effect from the immediately following year.

Mr Yiu said the two sides also discussed matters related to further co-operation in combating illegal textile transshipment.

"We reiterated our determination in combating illegal transshipment on our own and in co-operation with other authorities, in line with our international obligations and domestic laws," he said.

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Broadcasting Authority meeting

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The following is issued on behalf of the Broadcasting Authority:

The Broadcasting Authority (BA) yesterday (Thursday) met separately with representatives of Hong Kong Telecom and Star TV to discuss their future plans.

A spokesman for BA said the Authority kept in constant touch with all parties interested in broadcasting, and the discussions were part of the regular meetings it had with such parties.

BA also considered a number of complaints about radio and television programmes and advertisements.

Both Commercial Radio and Metro Broadcast were given serious warnings for including in programmes indirect advertising material for skin and hair care products marketed by the same person.

The spokesman said advertising material must clearly be identified as such and not hidden within programmes.

In the present cases, the owner of a business had appeared on both radio stations, had taken the opportunity to promote his products and had given the impression that he was offering professional advice, which was not the case.

This was not acceptable to BA, the spokesman added.

Metro Broadcast was further advised to observe the radio programme standards more closely as a result of remarks made to a caller by programme host Ms Pamela Pak.

BA found that Ms Pak's remarks were rude, abusive and inappropriate.

With regard to complaints about television programmes, BA advised ATV to observe its licence requirements more closely after it found that ATV had pre-empted some children's programmes without the prior approval of BA as is required under ATV's licence.

ATV had cut back on the children's programmes in order to broadcast a football match.

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S5 students and student-teachers receive awards

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The Director of Education, Mr Dominic S W Wong, today (Friday) presented the Charles and Elizabeth Frankland Moore Awards and the Hong Kong Sino-British Fellowship Trust Scholars' Foundation Award to two Secondary 5 students and two student-teachers for outstanding study achievements.

Secondary 5 student, Mr Lee Ka-yi of Queen's College, won the Charles and Elizabeth Frankland Moore Award, for obtaining 10As and rank first in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE).

The other S5 student, Miss Chau Man-wa of John F Kennedy Centre who obtained 3As and 3Bs was awarded the Hong Kong Sino-British Fellowship Trust Scholars' Foundation Award and ranked first among all disabled students at the HKCEE this year,

The two student-teachers were Miss Wong Young-ke and Miss So Yuen-yi. They won the Elizabeth Moore Awards for best performance in special education training at the former Sir Robert Black College of Education.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Mr Wong paid tribute to the students' parents, school principals and teachers for their support and encouragement to the recipients.

He said the training of the two student-teachers would benefit those who need them and would enrich the life of many young people.

The presentation ceremony was organised by the Hong Kong Sino-British Fellowship Trust Scholars' Association in memory of the late Dr Charles Frankland Moore.

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External trade statistics for October 1994 released

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

The value of re-exports continued to show a marked increase, by 19% over a year earlier to \$91.3 billion in October 1994.

Comparing October 1994 with October 1993, increases were recorded in the value of re- exports to Singapore (+36%), Canada (+27%), Japan (+24%), the United States (+22%), China (+22%), France (+18%), Taiwan (+8.5%), the United Kingdom (+7.3%) and the Republic of Korea (+0.9%).

However, the value of re-exports to Germany decreased slightly by 1.5%.

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

The value of re-exports in the first 10 months of 1994 was \$779.1 billion, 15% higher than that in the same period in 1993.

Comparing the first 10 months of 1994 with the same period in 1993, increases were recorded in the value of re-exports to Japan (+24%), China (+18%), the United States (+17%), Singapore (+16%), the United Kingdom (+12%), Canada (+10%), the Republic of Korea (+7.8%), France (+5.1%) and Germany (+3.7%).

However, the value of re-exports to Taiwan decreased marginally by 0.2%.

Table 2 shows the changes in the value of re- exports of the 10 principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first 10 months of 1994 with the same period in 1993, increases of various magnitudes were recorded in the value of re- exports of most principal commodity divisions.

More notable increases were registered for telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$21.5 billion or 37%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$11.4 billion or 12%); electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$11.3 billion or 20%); textiles (by \$9.5 billion or 16%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$6.3 billion or 27%); and footwear (by \$5.2 billion or 13%).

Over the same period, a decrease in the value of re-exports was recorded for road vehicles (by \$782 million or 2.8%).

The value of domestic exports increased further, by 8.5% over a year earlier to \$21.3 billion in October 1994.

Comparing October 1994 with October 1993, increases were recorded in the value of domestic exports to the Philippines (+33%), Japan (+22%), Singapore (+19%), China (+12%), the Netherlands (+11%), Taiwan (+8%) and the United States (+6.8%).

However, the value of domestic exports to Canada, Germany and the United Kingdom decreased by 12%, 2.8% and 1.9% respectively.

The changes in the value of domestic exports to the 10 main destinations are shown in Table 3.

Comparing the first 10 months of 1994 with the same period in 1993, decreases were recorded in the value of domestic exports to Canada (-14%), Germany (-10%), the United Kingdom (-6.4%), China (-3.5%) and Taiwan (-1.6%).

However, the value of domestic exports to the Philippines increased significantly by 30%. That to Singapore, Japan, the United States and the Netherlands increased by 8.7%, 3.6%, 2.9% and 2.5% respectively.

Taking all destinations together, the value of domestic exports in the first 10 months of 1994, at \$181.5 billion, decreased slightly by 1% over the same period in 1993. This reflected the continued structural shift to re-exports.

Table 4 shows the changes in the value of domestic exports of the 10 principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first 10 months of 1994 with the same period in 1993, decreases in the value of domestic exports were registered for telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$1.4 billion or 13%); textiles (by \$1.1 billion or 7.8%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of jewellery, goldsmiths' and silversmiths' wares (by \$902 million or 5.3%); photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$515 million or 3.9%); and machinery specialised for particular industries (by \$343 million or 11%).

Over the same period, increases in the value of domestic exports were recorded for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$1.9 billion or 11%); and clothing (by \$1 billion or 1.8%).

The value of imports continued to increase significantly, by 24% over a year earlier to \$116.2 billion in October 1994.

The changes in the value of imports from the 10 main suppliers are shown in Table 5.

Comparing October 1994 with October 1993, the value of imports from all of the main suppliers showed increases of various magnitudes: Germany (+41%), Malaysia (+36%), the Republic of Korea (+36%), Singapore (+36%), Italy (+33%), the United States (+29%), Taiwan (+23%), China (+20%), Japan (+19%) and the United Kingdom (+17%).

Comparing the first 10 months of 1994 with the same period in 1993, the value of imports from all of the main suppliers showed increases of various magnitudes: Singapore (+30%), Italy (+28%), Malaysia (+26%), the Republic of Korea (+17%), China (+17%), the United Kingdom (+17%), Germany (+13%), Taiwan (+12%), the United States (+12%) and Japan (+7.3%).

The value of imports in the first 10 months of 1994, at \$1,022 billion, increased markedly by 16% over the same period in 1993. This was supported largely by the growth in Hong Kong's re-export trade.

Table 6 shows the changes in the value of imports of the 10 principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first 10 months of 1994 with the same period in 1993, increases were recorded in the value of imports of most principal commodity divisions.

More notable increases were registered for telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$23.8 billion or 32%); electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$16.7 billion or 18%); textiles (by \$15.2 billion or 19%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$9 billion or 31%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$8.6 billion or 13%); and non-metallic mineral manufactures (by \$5.5 billion or 20%).

Over the same period, a decrease in the value of imports was recorded for road vehicles (by \$2.2 billion or 4.8%).

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

A separate analysis of the volume and price movements of external trade for October 1994 will be released in early January next year.

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

The October 1994 issue of the "Hong Kong External Trade" with detailed analyses on the performance of Hong Kong's external trade in October 1994 will be available for sale at \$86 a copy around December 21.

The report can be purchased either at the Government Publications Centre on the Ground Floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, or at the Publications Section of the Census and Statistics Department on the 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries regarding regular subscription to the report may be directed to the Information Services Department at French Mission Building, 1 Battery Path, Hong Kong (Tel 842 8802) and enquiries on trade statistics to the Census and Statistics Department (Tel 582 4915).

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TABLE 1 : RE-EXPORTS TO THE TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	OCT 1994 (HKD Mn.)	OCT 94 OVER OCT 93 (% CHANGE)	JAN-OCT 1994 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-OCT 94 OVER JAN-OCT 93 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	28,750	+ 21.7	264,787	+ 18.0
UNITED STATES	22,328	+ 22.3	176,138	+ 17.1
JAPAN	5,978	+ 24.4	44,460	+ 23.6
GERMANY	3,690	- 1.5	33,944	+ 3.7
UNITED KINGDOM	2,656	+ 7.3	22,474	+ 12.2
TAIWAN	1,997	+ 8.5	18,139	- 0.2
SINGAPORE	2,094	+ 35.6	16,350	+ 16.4
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,457	+ 0.9	13,678	+ 7.8
CANADA	1,448	+ 26.9	11,814	+ 10.4
FRANCE	1,201	+ 18.5	11,175	+ 5.1

TAP 2 : RE-EXPORTS OF THE TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	OCT 1994 (HKD Mn.)	OCT 94 OVER OCT 93 (% CHANGE)	JAN-OCT 1994 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-OCT 94 OVER JAN-OCT 93 (% CHANGE)
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	13,506	+ 21.2	102,899	+ 12.5
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	11,144	+ 41.2	80,330	+ 36.7
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	8,608	- 1.7	77,629	+ 4.3
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	7,449	+ 15.4	67,257	+ 16.4
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	8,995	+ 40.9	67,086	+ 20.3
FOOTWEAR	4,385	+ 9.1	44,584	+ 13.3
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	4,147	+ 15.7	33,318	+ 11.4
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	3,727	+ 36.2	29,054	+ 27.5
ROAD VEHICLES	1,748	- 21.7	26,736	- 2.8
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	2,734	+ 14.4	25,684	+ 15.1

TABLE 3 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	OCT 1994 (HKD Mn.)	OCT 94 OVER OCT 93 (% CHANGE)	JAN-OCT 1994 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-OCT 94 OVER JAN-OCT 93 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	5,720	+ 12.4	50,565	- 3.5
UNITED STATES	6,813	+ 6.8	50,336	+ 2.9
GERMANY	958	- 2.8	10,224	- 10.2
SINGAPORE	1,102	+ 19.0	10,066	+ 8.7
JAPAN	993	+ 22.0	8,406	+ 3.6
UNITED KINGDOM	845	- 1.9	8,229	- 6.4
TAIWAN	679	+ 8.0	4,996	- 1.6
NETHERLANDS	316	+ 11.2	3,764	+ 2.5
CANADA	361	- 12.0	3,398	- 14.2
PHILIPPINES	283	+ 32.5	2,402	+ 29.7

TABLE 4 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	OCT 1994 (HKD Mn.)	OCT 94 OVER OCT 93 (% CHANGE)	JAN-OCT 1994 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-OCT 94 OVER JAN-OCT 93 (% CHANGE)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	7,400	+ 6.6	59,205	+ 1.3
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	2,251	+ 22.5	20,385	+ 10.5
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,895	- 2.3	16,056	- 5.3
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	1,659	+ 17.2	14,112	+ 0.1
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,669	+ 18.0	12,760	- 3.9
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,362	- 0.9	12,454	- 7.8
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,147	+ 13.9	9,730	- 12.9
MANUFACTURES OF METALS	430	+ 5.6	3,874	+ 0.8
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	363	+ 27.7	3,247	+ 12.5
MACHINERY SPECIALIZED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES	264	- 11.8	2,657	- 11.4

TABLE 5 : IMPORTS FROM THE TEN MAIN SUPPLIERS

SUPPLIER	OCT 1994 (HKD Mn.)	OCT 94 OVER OCT 93 (% CHANGE)	JAN-OCT 1994 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-OCT 94 OVER JAN-OCT 93 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	45,193	+ 20.3	385,971	+ 16.9
JAPAN	17,875	+ 19.4	160,330	+ 7.3
TAIWAN	9,877	+ 22.9	87,003	+ 12.4
UNITED STATES	8,405	+ 29.5	73,291	+ 11.9
SINGAPORE	5,780	+ 35.7	50,342	+ 29.7
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	5,106	+ 35.8	47,034	+ 17.2
GERMANY	2,701	+ 41.0	23,211	+ 12.8
UNITED KINGDOM	2,105	+ 16.8	20,123	+ 16.7
ITALY	2,148	+ 32.6	18,686	+ 28.5
MALAYSIA	1,826	+ 36.3	16,312	+ 25.8

TABLE 6 : IMPORTS OF THE TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	OCT 1994 (HKD Mn.)	OCT 94 OVER OCT 93 (% CHANGE)	JAN-OCT 1994 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-OCT 94 OVER JAN-OCT 93 (% CHANGE)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	13,825	+ 28.3	111,282	+ 17.7
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	13,520	+ 50.4	98,678	+ 31.7
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	9,938	+ 16.1	97,215	+ 19.5
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	9,110	+ 2.0	79,971	+ 7.1
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	9,244	+ 27.0	75,274	+ 12.8
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	4,607	+ 2.8	43,290	+ 8.6
ROAD VEHICLES	4,727	+ 56.6	42,902	- 4.8
FOOTWEAR	3,921	+ 10.9	39,083	+ 13.0
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	4,881	+ 52.2	38,455	+ 30.8
NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	3,848	+ 34.0	32,860	+ 20.1

End/Friday, December 9, 1994

Most people satisfied with present situation: poll

\* \* \* \* \*

A recent opinion poll conducted by the Home Affairs Branch shows that 73 per cent of the respondents are satisfied with the present situation while only 20 per cent consider otherwise.

The bimonthly survey which was carried out in November also indicated that 16 per cent of those interviewed expected the situation to improve in the next 12 months, while 50 per cent considered it would remain about the same.

The respective figures recorded in the September poll were 15 per cent and 51 per cent.

"Transport-related problems" continued to top the list of problems most mentioned by the respondents - 47 per cent as compared with 37 per cent in the last survey.

Among these respondents, 77 per cent were concerned about traffic congestion.

The second most-mentioned issue was "housing-related problems" with the percentage of respondents rising from 35 per cent two months ago to 42 per cent in the current survey.

This was followed by "Hong Kong Future" (27 per cent), which was about the same as the previous 28 per cent.

The survey was the 55th in the series to gauge the trend of public opinion in respect of perceived problems in Hong Kong and the community's expectation of the general situation.

A total of 1,506 persons were successfully interviewed in this poll which was conducted between November 14 and 18 using a random sample of residential telephone numbers.

Within the household of a selected telephone number, a respondent aged between 15 and 64 was randomly chosen for interview.

End/Friday, December 9, 1994

### Mrs Patten opens 1994 Festival of Trees

\* \* \* \* \*

Hong Kong people should remember the children around the world who are in real need, and whose opportunities to enjoy the standard of living and education available to children here are remote, Mrs Patten said today (Friday).

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Festival of Trees in aid of Save the Children Fund China Appeal, she said the decorations and presents on the trees put people in mind of the Christmas spirit.

"An important part of that Christmas spirit is giving to others," she said.

Mrs Patten expressed her appreciation to Save the Children for their splendid work in the last 75 years in different parts of the world promoting the well-being of children.

The organisation's latest project, funded largely by the people of Hong Kong, is the construction of a model orphanage for abandoned babies in Anhui province in China. This will also serve as a training centre for care workers.

End/Friday, December 9, 1994

### Appointments to Education Commission

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The Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Michael Leung, today (Friday) announced the appointments by the Governor to the Education Commission for its next term of office commencing January 1 next year.

The Chairman, Professor Rosie Young, and five incumbent members are re-appointed and four new members are appointed, giving a total of 16 members.

Professor Young and two other serving members - Mrs Angela Cheung and Mr Cheung Man-kwong - are appointed for a further one-year term. Professor Young is a professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Hong Kong. She served as Chairman of the Commission for the past two years, and is also chairman of the Commission's working group on school funding, whose report is expected to be published during 1995.

Mrs Angela Cheung has served on the Education Commission since January 1989. She is re-appointed for a further year so that as Chairman of the Working Group on Language Proficiency, she can help the Commission to complete Education Commission Report No. 6, containing the Commission's final recommendations on language proficiency in the light of the public consultation exercise which concluded in October.

Mr Cheung Man-kwong is currently the Legislative Council member of the teaching constituency and President of the Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union.

Three serving members are re-appointed for a further two-year term. They are:

Dr Cheng Kai-ming, Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Hong Kong. Dr Cheng also serves as Chairman of the Commission's working group on educational standards, whose report was published on December 7; Ms Sansan Ching Teh-chi, Executive Director of the Hong Kong Council of Early Childhood Education and Services; and Mr Peter Lee Ting-chang, Director of the Lee Hysan Estate Company Ltd.

The four new Members are: Mr Andrew Leung Kwan-yuen, Mr Tai Hay-lap, the Rev Margaret Wong and Mr Norman Yuen Lee-tong.

Mr Andrew Leung Kwan-yuen is the Managing Director of Sun Hing Knitting Factory Ltd. He is active in the Federation of Hong Kong Industries and serves as an employers' representative on the Labour Advisory Board.

Mr Tai Hai-lap is the Principal of Yan Oi Tong Tin Ka Ping Secondary School in Tuen Mun. He is well-known for his press articles on educational issues.

The Rev Margaret Wong is the Principal of St Paul's Convent School. She is also a member of the Governing Council of the Hong Kong Institute of Education.

Mr Norman Yuen Kee-tong is the Operations Director of the Hongkong Telecom. He is also a member of the Language Fund Advisory Committee.

The chairmen of the Advisory Committee on Teacher Education and Qualifications, the Board of Education, the University Grants Committee and the Vocational Training Council, and the Director of Education will continue to serve as ex-officio members of the Commission. The Secretary for Education and Manpower will continue to be Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

Mr Leung thanked the four outgoing members - Mr Cho Yu-fun, Ms Kathy Chiu Kam-hing, Dr Alexander Fung Chi-wah and Mr James Tien Pei-chun - for their support and contribution to the compilation of the three working group reports and other important Commission deliberations in the past two years.

End/Friday, December 9, 1994

Diverse actions needed to halt drug abuse

\* \* \* \* \*

There is no magic formula, waiting to be discovered, which will bring an end to substance abuse.

However, there are many diverse actions that can and should be taken, the Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr Alasdair Sinclair, said today (Friday).

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the 15th International Federation of Non-Government Organisations Conference on the prevention for drug and substance abuse, Mr Sinclair stressed the need for actions that would help to develop in young people self-confidence and a healthy outlook.

"Children are influenced by the people around them. Parents, teachers, social workers, and others who are involved with young people, set an example," he said.

"Young people have to be made aware of the risks of drug abuse and helped to develop life skills - skills that will enable them to resist peer pressures, and resist taking drugs," he added.

Mr Sinclair acknowledged the part played by non-government organisations (NGOs) in the prevention of drug and substance abuse.

"The Government cannot do everything on its own. Nor would it wish to.

"There is a wealth of talent and commitment in the NGOs which it would be folly to ignore," he said.

Turning to the methadone maintenance programme, Mr Sinclair said it made a major contribution to reducing the damage.

"On an average day, 7,000 people do not take heroin because they have been provided with oral methadone instead.

"The money they would have spent on heroin does not have to be obtained and is not passed into the hands of criminals.

"The needles they would have injected themselves with remain unused and are not disposed of carelessly," he said.

"The patients live a normal life without thinking constantly about their next fix.

"They are rescued from criminality and rescued from disease," he added.

Mr Sinclair said a range of programmes was needed to give people a choice.

"The important thing is to reduce the health risks and minimise the harm, and rehabilitate people into the community," he said.

End/Friday, December 9, 1994

#### Country park visitor survey begins on Sunday

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A survey aimed at gauging views of countryside visitors on the territory's country parks and suggested areas of improvement will begin on Sunday (December 11).

Organised by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD), the survey will be conducted on two separate periods. The first period will be between Sunday and December 18, whereas the second period falls on January 1 to 15 next year.

Commenting on the survey, AFD's Country Parks Protection Officer Mr Edmond Lam said it was the fifth exercise of its kind, which would form part of the continuous process in data collection including feedbacks of country park visitors.

The last four country park visitor surveys were conducted in 1982, 1985, 1987 and 1991 respectively.

Mr Lam pointed out that the main objective of this survey was to reflect the effectiveness of the existing country parks system and to find out areas for improvement.

"The changing needs of country park visitors can be canvassed through the survey, which will be useful for future planning and management of these parks," he said.

On targets of the survey, Mr Lam said country park visitors would be randomly selected for interviews, each of which would last no longer than 10 minutes. It is planned to interview some 6,000 visitors.

Interviewees will be asked simple questions. Among them are: tour group size and composition; means and cost of transportation; time spent on travelling and hours of stay; frequency of visits; preferred activities; improvement suggestions; and the most welcomed facility or item at country parks.

Mr Lam called on those visitors selected for interview to co-operate. The information and data collected would be compiled into a statistical summary report for future use.

He reassured that under no circumstances would any reference be made to personal data of individual interviewees.

Each interviewee will be given a souvenir in recognition of their support.

The survey will be mainly conducted by AFD's uniformed country park rangers and wardens. Civil Aid Service members will help out on Sundays and public holidays. Some part of the survey may be carried out at night.

The survey will cover 17 of the territory's 21 country parks, and two special areas at Tsiu Hang and Tai Po Kau.

End/Friday, December 9, 1994

#### More ozone-depleting substances come under control

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The Gazette announced today (Friday) an amendment to the Schedule of the Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance (OLPO) which extends the list of scheduled substances in accordance with amendments made to the Montreal Protocol in Copenhagen in 1992.

The extended list covers methyl bromide, 34 types of hydrobromofluorocarbons (HBFC) and 34 types of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC), which will be brought under importing control starting January 1, 1995, June 14, 1995 and January 1, 1996 respectively.

Principal Environmental Protection Officer of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), Mr Franklin Chung, said only two of the newly added scheduled substances, namely methyl bromide and chlorodifluoromethane (HCFC-22), were consumed in a substantial amount in Hong Kong while there was no record of importation of HBFC.

Noting that methyl bromide was exclusively used by the local pest control industry for quarantine and pre-shipment treatment of cargoes, which were exempted under the Copenhagen Amendment to the Protocol, he said: "Although there is no definite phase-out plan for the substance, its use is closely monitored by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department.

"As for HCFC, which have similar physical and chemical properties of chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) but with a far lower ozone depleting potential, they have been considered as an alternative substance to CFC before the phase-out of the latter in December 1995.

"However, given the ozone depleting nature of the HCFC, the Montreal Protocol has agreed to phase-out the substance in the year 2030," Mr Chung said.

Under the Copenhagen Amendment of the Protocol, Hong Kong's local consumption of HCFC in 1996 should be limited to the level in 1989 plus 3.1 per cent of the consumption level of CFC in the same year, both are calculated in weighted quantities.

"To meet this requirement, starting from January 1, 1996, any person who imports HCFC into Hong Kong for local consumption will be subject to a quota control," he said.

HCFC are mainly used as refrigerants, foam blowing agents, propellants in aerosols, carrier gases in sterilant mixture, solvents and cleaning agents in electronics, metal cleaning and dry cleaning industries as well as components of fire extinguishants replacing halons.

Of the 34 types of HCFC to be brought under control, only four are currently used in Hong Kong. They are HCFC-22, -123, -141 and -225, with HCFC-22 constituting 97 per cent of the total retained HCFC imports in Hong Kong during 1993.

Noting that several substitutes for HCFC-22 are being reviewed worldwide, Mr Chung said: "EPD will continue to liaise with affected industries and advise them on other ozone-benign alternatives and technologies to be developed."

Enquiries on the import and export of ozone depleting chemicals should be made to EPD at 594 6242 or 594 6243.

End/Friday, December 9, 1994

#### Road junctions on Tsing Yi to be improved

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The Government proposes to improve two road junctions along Tsing Yi Road West to accommodate the additional traffic generated because of the opening of the Lantau Fixed Crossing when it is completed as part of the Airport Core Programme.

The existing Tsing Yi Road West comprises a dual two lane carriageway and the traffic capacity of the road is limited by the capacities of the road junctions along the road.

The improvement works involve widening and addition of turning lanes at the junction of Tsing Yi Road West/Liu To Road, and Tsing Yi Road West/Ching Hong Road.

Other associated works will also be carried out.

A notice on the proposed improvement works is published in the Gazette today (Friday).

The plan and scheme may be seen at:

- \* the Central and Western District Office, Public Enquiry Service Centre, Ground Floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.
- \* the District Lands Office/Kwai Tsing, 10th Floor, Tsuen Wan Station Multi-storey Carpark Building, 174-208 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories; and

- \* the District Office/Kwai Tsing, Second Floor, Kwai Hing Government Offices Building, 166-174 Hing Fong Road, Kwai Chung, New Territories.

Any person objecting to the works or the use, or both, should send his objection in writing to the Secretary for Transport at the Central Government Offices, East Wing, Second Floor, Lower Albert Road, Central, not later than February 7 next year.

End/Friday, December 9, 1994

#### Tenders invited for two architectural projects

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for the construction of a local open space with a total site area of 2,500 square metres at Fung Cheung Road, Yuen Long.

The open space will have a garden with landscaped areas and a children's playground.

Meanwhile, tenders are also being called for the design, supply and installation of a new gondola system for the High Block of Queensway Government Offices at 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Works for the two projects are expected to start in March for completion by September and December 1995 respectively.

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

Tender offers will close at noon on December 30 and January 6 respectively.

End/Friday, December 9, 1994

Land to be resumed for public open space

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Owing to a shortage of open space in Wan Chai, the Government is to resume four private lots with a total area of 374.1 square metres in Tai Wong Street East, Wan Chai, for development of public open space by the Urban Council.

"The area to be resumed is zoned 'Open Space' on the draft Wan Chai Outline Zoning Plan. The project will improve the living environment in Wan Chai, and rehousing and compensation will be offered to those who are eligible," a spokesman for the Lands Department said today (Friday).

Compensation to the affected owners and tenants will be assessed in accordance with the provisions of the Crown Lands Resumption Ordinance.

Eligible occupiers will be offered ex-gratia allowance.

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

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

End/Friday, December 9, 1994

Land to be resumed for building village resite houses

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The Government will resume 103 private agricultural lots with a total area of 20,256.5 square metres in Tung Chung, New Territories, for the provision of land for the Pa Mei North Village Resite Area.

The land is required for building village resite houses for eligible indigenous villagers whose buildings lots are affected by Tung Chung New Town Development.

The works are expected to start in May next year for completion in early 1997.

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

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

End/Friday, December 9, 1994.

Road works for Pa Mei North Village proposed

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The Territory Development Department's Hong Kong Island and Islands Development Office is planning the construction of a pedestrian and vehicular access to the proposed Pa Mei North Village Resite Area in Tung Chung, Lantau.

The works include construction of a 180-metre-long road together with the associated drainage, three parking areas and installation of utilities.

The works are scheduled to begin in June next year for completion in 22 months.

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

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

Any person wishing to object to the proposed works should write to the Secretary for Transport, Central Government Offices, East Wing, second floor, Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong no later than February 7 next year.

End/Friday, December 9, 1994

Tenders invited for building cargo handling area

\* \* \* \* \*

The Territory Development Department's New Territories West Development Office is inviting tenders for the remaining construction works for a Public Cargo Handling Area in Area 16, Tuen Mun.

The contract involves the building of the remaining 30- metre-wide waterfront and perimeter wall, and the installation of area lighting.

The works are scheduled to begin in February next year for completion in 14 months.

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

Tender forms and further particulars may be obtained from the office of Messrs Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick and Partners, 38th floor, Metroplaza, Tower 1, 223 Hing Fong Road, Kwai Fong, New Territories.

The tender closing date is noon on December 30.

End/Friday, December 9, 1994

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,782	0930	-376
Closing balance in the account	1,183	1000	-476
Change attributable to :		1100	-576
Money market activity	-474	1200	-470
LAF today	-125	1500	-469
		1600	-474

LAF rate 3.75% bid/5.75% offer TWI 122.0 \*+0.1\* 9.12.94

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.64	18 months	2605	6.35	99.11	7.13
1 month	5.09	24 months	2611	6.90	99.24	7.46
3 months	5.54	29 months	3704	6.15	97.07	7.65
6 months	6.07	35 months	3710	7.25	98.89	7.83
12 months	6.72	58 months	5909	7.45	97.33	8.29

Total turnover of bills and bonds - 16,210 million

Closed December 9, 1994

End/Friday, December 9, 1994