



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
GARDEN ROAD, 5th-8th FLOORS, MURRAY BUILDING,  
HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Tuesday, July 30, 1996

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Termination of anti-circumvention action by EC .....	1
New initiative to improve construction site safety .....	2
North Lantau Refuse Transfer Station contract signed .....	3
Technology Exhibition '97 be held early next year .....	4
Feasibility study on nullah decking commissioned .....	5
Certificate to enhance mobility of the disabled .....	6
Dial-in road closure information on trial .....	8
Temporary full night closure of Tuen Mun Road .....	9
HIV/AIDS situation in second quarter .....	11
Operator and manager of unlicensed guesthouses fined .....	11
Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results .....	12
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations .....	13

### Termination of anti-circumvention action by EC

\* \* \* \* \*

The Trade Department received a Note Verbale from the European Commission (EC) today (Tuesday) informing Hong Kong that the EC had terminated its anti-circumvention actions on imports of 3.5-inch microdisks originating in Hong Kong and eight other countries.

The EC announced the termination of the anti-circumvention case against Hong Kong and the other eight countries in the Official Journal on July 25, 1996.

The Acting Assistant Director-General of Trade, Mrs Teresa Ng, said: "Hong Kong maintains the position that despite termination of the anti-circumvention case in question, the anti-circumvention actions deployed by the EC against 3.5-inch microdisks originating in Hong Kong and eight other countries were without multilateral basis and incompatible with GATT/WTO principles.

"Nevertheless, Hong Kong welcomes the termination of the anti-circumvention actions by the EC."

Mrs Ng said the EC officials conducted on-the-spot investigation on four Hong Kong companies in January this year. The investigation revealed no evidence of transshipment and that our exports of 3.5-inch microdisks to the EU were of Hong Kong origin.

Given that circumvention could not be established for Hong Kong according to the EC's yardstick and in view of the significant decline of our imports of 3.5-inch microdisks into the EU, the EC decided to terminate the anti-circumvention investigation against Hong Kong.

With the termination of the anti-circumvention investigation, the registration requirement of imports of microdisks from Hong Kong and eight other countries ceased on July 26, 1996.

The anti-circumvention investigation against 3.5-inch microdisks originating in Hong Kong and eight other countries was initiated by the EC on October 21, 1995.

It was alleged by the Committee of European Diskette Manufacturers (DISKMA) that the anti-dumping duties imposed on 3.5-inch microdisks originating in the People's Republic of China and Taiwan were circumvented by imports of the product from Hong Kong and eight other countries.

Twenty-four Hong Kong companies were alleged to be involved. The EC conducted on-the-spot investigation on four Hong Kong companies in January this year.

Hong Kong held a round of informal bilateral consultations with the EC in February this year and issued a detailed representation in March to the EC to raise our strong principled objection to the EC's anti-circumvention actions and request termination of the case against Hong Kong.

End

#### New initiative to improve construction site safety

\* \* \* \* \*

The Government is further upgrading construction site safety by providing more incentive for workers at Government work sites to attend safety training.

The Works Branch in conjunction with the Education and Manpower Branch have agreed to upgrade a basic site safety induction training session organised by the HK Construction Association into a full-day course for workers at Government construction sites.

A Works Branch spokesman said: "The course aims to make workers more aware of the potential safety hazards at a construction site and the dire consequences if the proper procedures are not followed.

"We will also make them understand that both the workers and the employers have responsibilities to observe all safety rules and regulations set out in the law.

"In order to enable workers to benefit from this training programme as early as possible, the Education and Manpower Branch has made available fund to reimburse the workers engaged in public works for the one-day wages lost in attending the course.

"We have also decided to include the course in the Pay for Safety Scheme in Government contracts to be tendered from September where contractors will be paid specifically for arranging the safety training."

The spokesman noted that as a further incentive to employers, the Labour Department will deem a contractor to have discharged his duties to provide safety training under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance if a good proportion of site workers has successfully completed the course.

The Works Branch has written to all approved Government contractors to enlist their support to this new safety initiative which is expected to commence in September.

End

#### North Lantau Refuse Transfer Station contract signed

\* \* \* \* \*

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (Tuesday) signed a contract for the development of the North Lantau Refuse Transfer Station (NLRTS), which is one of the nine refuse transfer stations built or planned for the territory.

Located at Siu Ho Wan on north Lantau Island, the refuse transfer station will be built at a capital cost of about \$251 million and with an annual operating cost of about \$34 million.

The NLRTS is part of the airport core programme. It is scheduled to be commissioned in April 1998 to correspond with the opening of the new airport.

The contract was awarded to Ecoserve Limited, a joint venture between Waste Management International plc and CITIC Pacific Limited.

Similar to other waste management projects, the NLRTS will be developed under a 'design, build and operate' contract. The contractor will be responsible for operating the station for 15 years.

Speaking at the contract signing ceremony, EPD's acting Assistant Director, Mr Benny Wong, said: "The NLRTS will be capable of handling up to 1,200 tonnes of refuse daily arising from Chek Lap Kok Airport and Tung Chung New Town."

The NLRTS will be built to very high environmental standards with the provision of a wastewater treatment plant and odour removal equipment to ensure that no nuisance will be brought to the developments nearby.

All wastes received at the station will be properly compacted and containerised before being transported by marine vessels to the West New Territories Landfill for disposal.

"The NLRTS is the sixth refuse transfer station contract awarded by the EPD. At present three transfer stations are already in operation at Kowloon Bay, Chai Wan and Sha Tin, and the fourth and the fifth one are being built at Kennedy Town and West Kowloon reclamation area," Mr Wong said.

End

#### Technology Exhibition '97 to be held early next year

\* \* \* \* \*

A large-scale exhibition organised by the Government will be held early next year to highlight technological achievements and latest advances in the Asia-Pacific region.

"The Hong Kong Technology Exhibition '97 is one of the core programmes of the Hong Kong Technology Week '97 which is one of the latest initiatives of the Industry and Technology Development Council (ITDC) to promote Hong Kong as a high tech manufacturing base", a spokesman for the Industry Department said today (Tuesday).

An organising committee, chaired by Professor Charles Kao, has been set up to steer the organisation work undertaken by the Industry Department of the Hong Kong Government.

Co-organisers of the Exhibition include major trade and industry-organisations, industry support bodies, tertiary institution and professional associations.

"The event will be held at the Upper Hall of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from January 6-8, 1997.

The venue of the Exhibition will be divided into six different pavilions to exhibit technologies of various industrial sectors including electronics, plastics, metals, textiles and clothing, biotechnology and information technology. To add variety and liveliness to the exhibition, exhibitors will be offered a choice between standard booth or raw space.

"So far 150 applications for booths have been received, including leading technology-based companies like Motorola Semiconductors HK Ltd., Hong Kong Telecom, Group Sense (International) Ltd., Champion Technology Holdings Ltd., TAL Apparel Ltd., and Varitronix Ltd.," the spokesman said.

"To encourage participation from potential exhibitors, charges for a standard booth and raw space, both of nine square metres in floor area, for the three-day exhibition are set at \$11,000 and \$8,800 respectively, only about one-third of the going rates for exhibitions of similar scale.

"Non-commercial exhibitors like tertiary institutions, industry-support bodies will be offered free booths in view of their non-profit making nature," the spokesman noted.

The target audience of the Technology Exhibition include manufacturers, local and overseas investors, venture capitalists, students as well as members of the public. It is expected that the Exhibition will attract over 100,000 visitors.

A briefing for potential exhibitors will be held at Room 608, the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre this Thursday (August 1) at 2,30 pm. Companies/organisations wishing to participate are welcome to attend the briefing.

For further information, please contact Miss Rebecca Wong, Event Manager of Meeting Planners, on 2266 4451.

End

#### Feasibility study on nullah decking commissioned

\* \* \* \* \*

The Drainage Services Department today (Tuesday) commissioned a \$9.6 million feasibility study on nullah decking and associated environmental improvements.

A consultancy agreement was signed by the Assistant Director of Drainage Services, Mr Raymond Cheung, and a representative of Maunsell Consultants Asia Limited.

Speaking after the signing of the agreement, Mr Cheung said the 30-month study was commissioned with an aim to making use of the space over the nullahs by developing them as local amenities or other uses more beneficial to the community.

"The study will develop a comprehensive policy and specific proposals for 31 nullahs throughout the territory.

"It will also consider the effects of proposed works on safety, maintenance and hydraulic capacity of the existing drainage system and the environment, and subsequently recommend outline solutions for any such consequential problems," he said.

The study will be carried out in two stages. Stage I covers nullahs in the urban areas and scheduled for completion in 18 months. Stage II covers nullahs in the New Territories for completion in 30 months.

Mr Cheung said that the decking of nullahs would reduce nuisance caused by pollution. In some areas, the decking could provide space for road widening, parking, storage, recreational facilities, green areas and other commercial or public facilities.

"In other areas, nullahs can provide a pleasing addition to the landscape after being cleaned and beautified," he said.

End

#### Certificate to enhance mobility of the disabled

\* \* \* \* \*

Disabled private car passengers will be allowed to board or alight in restricted zones from Thursday (August 1) under a six-month trial scheme.

Explaining details of the scheme at a demonstration, Transport Department's Senior Transport Officer (Taxi), Ms Irene Ho Wai-yin, said today (Tuesday) that the trial scheme aimed to improve the mobility of disabled people.

The trial scheme is an extension of the "Taxi Certificate" which has been introduced since 1993 to cover private car passengers.

The "Certificate for picking up or setting down of disabled private car passengers in restricted zones" scheme is launched by the Transport Department, Police and Hong Kong Council of Social Service.

Ms Ho said: "Under the scheme, a disabled passenger who wishes to board or alight from a private car in a restricted zone should issue in advance to the driver a certificate with the passenger's name, vehicle registration number and details of the journey.

"The driver can show it to a traffic police to prove that he has just let a disabled passenger board or alight if he is intercepted.

"However, picking up or setting down activities will only be allowed on the condition that no hazard or major disruption is caused to other road users.

"Nor are these activities allowed to take place on expressways or 24-hour daily restricted zones.

"Moreover, the private cars will not be allowed to wait in restricted zones for disabled passengers in all circumstances."

Persons with the following mobility problems are eligible for the use of the certificate:

- \* wheelchair users
- \* visually impaired persons (totally blind or with severely low vision)
- \* users of walking aids such as artificial leg, crutches, calipers, four legged walking aid, and
- \* persons with mobility difficulty certified by doctors, occupational therapists, or physiotherapists, or recommended by rehabilitation organisations' social workers.

Eligible disabled persons may apply to the 44 designated organisations of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service who are authorised by the Transport Department to issue such a certificate.

"The certificate is not transferable and should only be used by the disabled to whom it is issued," Ms Ho added.

The scheme will be reviewed after six months.

To further improve the existing "Taxi Certificate" arrangement, a folder in fluorescent orange colour with a disabled logo will be distributed to holders of the Taxi Certificates for the disabled people from Thursday.

They may wave it to draw the attention of a taxi driver when hailing a taxi.

End

Dial-in road closure information on trial

\* \* \* \* \*

Motorists can better plan their journey route from Thursday (August 1) as the Transport Department will put on trial a bilingual dial-in service to provide road closure information on selected major roads.

The district of Sha Tin and the heavily used Tuen Mun Road have been selected for the trial.

A Transport Department spokesman said today (Tuesday) that the dial-in service would also include information on the closure of major roads during emergency situations when the department's Emergency Transport Co-ordination Centre (ETCC) is in full operation.

For Tuen Mun Road, information will be provided on the locations and duration of planned closure of more than one lane for either carriageway together with related necessary contingency measures, such as traffic diversions.

The service for Sha Tin District will cover the Sha Tin, Ma On Shan and Tai Wai areas involving planned full closure of major roads on either direction.

Members of the public can call 2866 8111 to obtain the information with a touch-tone dial telephone. Voice instructions will be provided to assist the caller to select the appropriate keys on the keypad of the telephone for the information he/she wishes to obtain.

The spokesman said the dial-in service would provide another alternative for the public to obtain road closure information for better journey planning, in addition to the radio, television or newspapers.

"The trial is initially set for three months with an option to extend it for another three months.

"If the scheme is welcomed by the public, the coverage will be gradually extended to other districts and key expressways in the future provided resources and fund are available," the spokesman said.

The recorded messages for Tuen Mun Road and Sha Tin will be regularly updated whenever road closure is planned.

"This will enable motorists to have an early idea as when traffic on a major road within our trial area will be affected by the planned closure and the duration of such disruption," the spokesman said.

As for the emergency service, the spokesman said messages would only be recorded on the closure of major roads during emergency situations, such as during typhoon, flooding and landslide, which require the department's ETCC to come into full operation.

"During major incidents which require our ETCC to activate, we shall update the messages on the emergency service as frequently as practicable. Our priority is still to disseminate up-to-the-minute road closure information and related contingency measures to the public through the mass media because they can reach the largest number of people.

"With the provision of this telephone service, members of the public can dial in conveniently to obtain road closure information any time of the day," the spokesman said.

End

#### Temporary full night closure of Tuen Mun Road

\* \* \* \* \*

The Transport Department today (Tuesday) announced that Tuen Mun Road between Sham Tseng Interchange and Tsuen Wan will be fully closed in the small hours from Mondays to Fridays for about three months from Thursday (August 1).

The closure is to facilitate rock blasting operation under the Ting Kau Bridge and Approach Viaduct Project.

As rock blastings will be carried out between 1 am and 1.30 am on weekdays, Tuen Mun Road Tuen Mun-bound between Tsuen Wan and Sham Tseng Interchange will be fully closed for the period.

Tuen Mun Road Kowloon-bound between Sham Tseng Interchange and Tsuen Wan will also be fully closed between 1 am and 5 am on weekdays for clearing road surfaces after blasting.

As a result of the full closure of Tuen Mun Road, the following access roads to Tuen Mun Road will also be temporarily closed for the periods specified:

- \* Tsuen Wan Road Tuen Mun-bound between its exit slip road to Hoi Hing Road Roundabout and Tuen Mun Road between 1 am and 1.30 am;
- \* the slip road from Hoi Hing Road Roundabout to Tsuen Wan Road Tuen Mun-bound between 1 am and 1.30 am;
- \* the slip road from Castle Peak Road to Tuen Mun Road Tuen Mun-bound between 1 am and 1.30 am; and
- \* the slip road from Castle Peak Road to Tuen Mun Road Kowloon-bound at Sham Tseng Interchange between 1 am and 5 am.

During closure of Tuen Mun Road Tuen Mun-bound between 1 am and 1.30 am, all vehicles including public buses, green minibuses and New Territories taxis in Tsuen Wan heading for Tuen Mun should use Hoi Hing Road, Hoi On Road and Castle Peak Road until reaching Sham Tseng Interchange where they can access to Tuen Mun Road Tuen Mun-bound.

Motorists on Castle Peak Road heading for Tuen Mun should remain on the road until reaching Sham Tseng Interchange for access to Tuen Mun Road Tuen Mun-bound.

When the Kowloon-bound carriageway of Tuen Mun Road closes between 1 am and 5 am, all vehicles including public buses, green minibuses and New Territories taxis on Tuen Mun Road Kowloon-bound heading for Tsuen Wan will be diverted via Castle Peak Road at Sham Tseng Interchange.

At the same time, motorists on Castle Peak Road heading for Tsuen Wan should remain on the road as access to Tuen Mun Road Kowloon-bound at Sham Tseng Interchange will be banned.

To better prepare for the blastings, a section of the Kowloon-bound slow lane of Tuen Mun Road near Ting Kau will also be closed from 8 pm each night to 6 am the next morning on weekdays and from 10 am to 4 pm on Sundays and public holidays for about four months from August 1.

End

HIV/AIDS situation in second quarter

\* \* \* \* \*

A total of 38 persons were found to be positive for the HIV Antibody Test in the second quarter of 1996, the Department of Health announced today (Tuesday). This brings the number of HIV infected persons in Hong Kong to 702.

Twenty-six new AIDS cases were reported during the same period.

The total number of confirmed AIDS cases is 214.

Of the 702 HIV-infected, 336 acquired the infection through heterosexual sex and 231 through homosexual or bisexual sex; 14 were injecting drug users; three were mother-to-child transmissions around the time of birth; and 66 acquired the infection through contaminated blood or blood products before 1985 when HIV Antibody Test and safe heat treated clotting concentrates were not available.

As for the remaining 52, the information available was inadequate for classification.

End

Operator and manager of unlicensed guesthouses fined

\* \* \* \* \*

The operator and manager of two guesthouses were fined a total of \$45,000 today (Tuesday) at the San Po Kong Magistracy after pleading guilty to operating or managing unlicensed guesthouses in Kowloon Tong.

The guesthouses at ground floor and second floor, 1 Rutland Quadrant, with their certificates of exemption expired, had been reminded by officers of the Home Affairs Department's Licensing Authority to cease operation until a licence was issued to them.

However, when the officers conducted a two-day operation in December last year against unlicensed guesthouses catering mainly for local people, they found these guesthouses were in operation without a licence.

After questioning, the operator and manager of the guesthouses were subsequently charged under Section 5 of the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance.

The operator and the manager were fined \$12,500 and \$10,000, for each offence, respectively.

A spokesman for the department said unlicensed guesthouses would not be tolerated and enforcement action would continue to be taken against them to ensure all such establishments are being operated with proper regard for fire and building safety.

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

End

#### Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

\* \* \* \* \*

Tender date	30 Jul 96	30 Jul 96
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q631	H670
Issue date	31 Jul 96	31 Jul 96
Maturity date	30 Oct 96	29 Jan 97
Coupon	-	-
Amount applied	HK\$5,460 MN	HK\$4,230 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$1,500 MN	HK\$800 MN
Average yield accepted	5.26 PCT	5.47 PCT
Highest yield accepted	5.27 PCT	5.48 PCT
Pro rata ratio	About 48 PCT	About 64 PCT
Average tender yield	5.28 PCT	5.50 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning August 5, 1996 -

Tender date	6 Aug 96	6 Aug 96
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q632	Y692
Issue date	7 Aug 96	7 Aug 96
Maturity date	6 Nov 96	6 Aug 97
Tenor	91 days	364 days
Amount on offer	HK\$1,500+300 MN	HK\$500+150 MN

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	1,958	0930	Nil
Closing balance in the account	1,958	1000	Nil
Change attributable to :		1100	Nil
Money market activity	Nil	1200	Nil
LAF today	Nil	1500	Nil
		1600	Nil

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 123.9 \*-0.1\* 30.7.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.96	2 years	2805	6.30	99.97	6.41
1 month	5.07	3 years	3904	6.80	100.11	6.87
3 months	5.26	5 years	5106	7.23	99.48	7.49
6 months	5.47	7 years	7305	7.60	99.68	7.80
12 months	5.88	5 years	M502	7.30	99.30	7.63

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$8,589 million

Closed July 30, 1996

End